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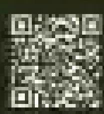


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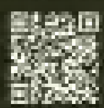
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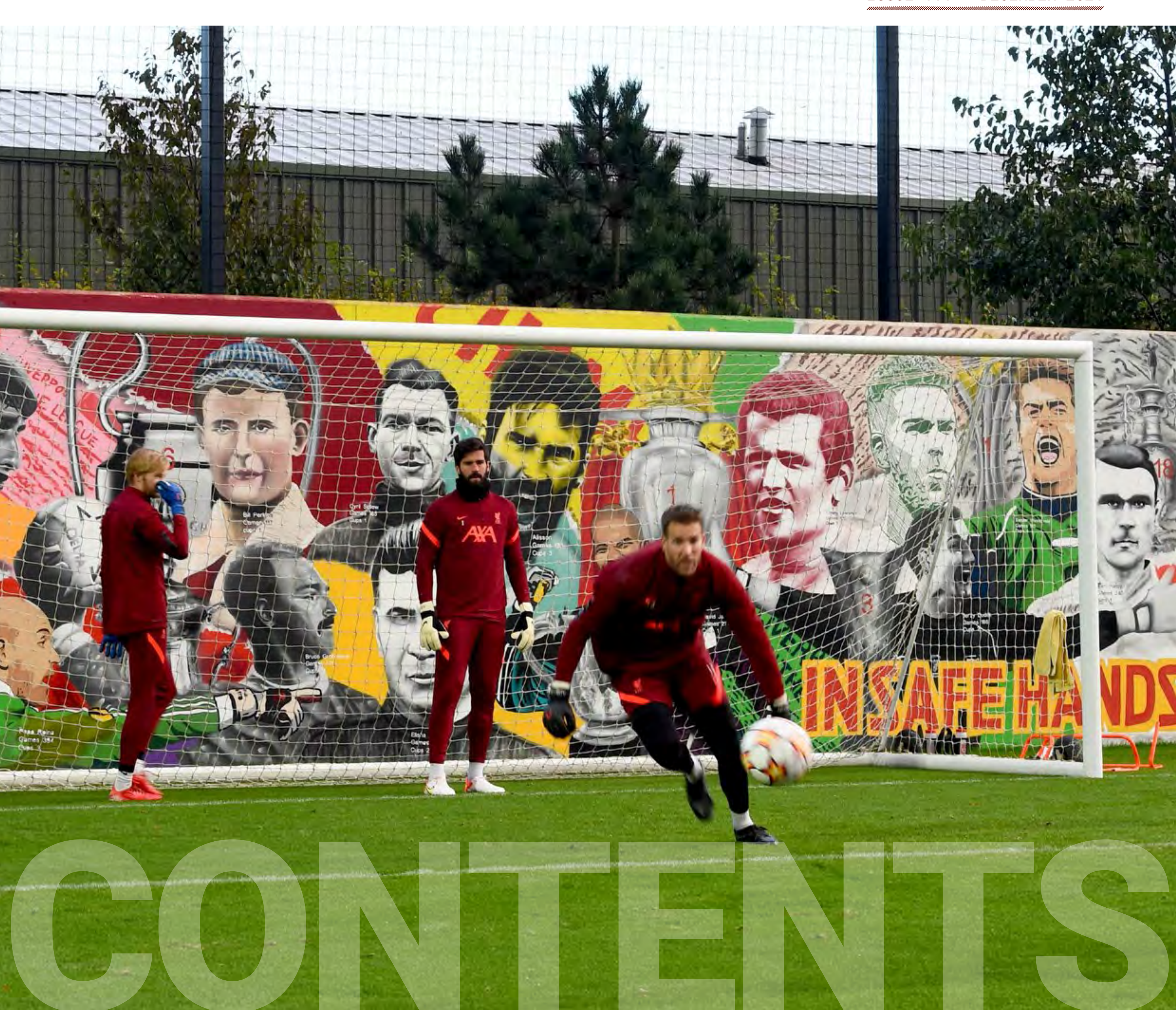
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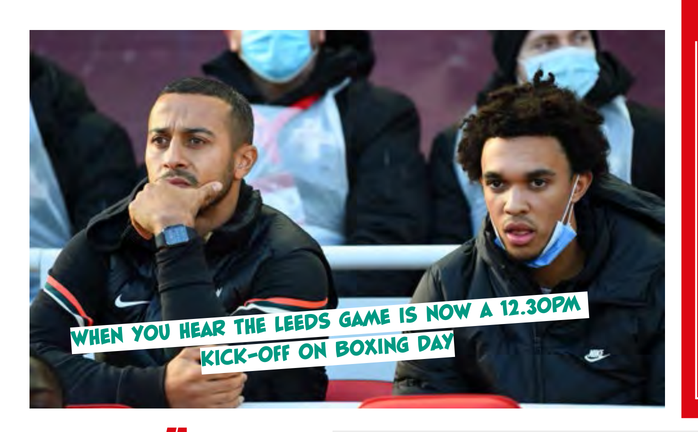
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Photography Getty Images, Alamy, Mirrorpix, Liverpool Echo, John Powell, Andrew Powell, Nicholas Taylor © Liverpool Football Club & Athletic Grounds Ltd.
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Printed by William Gibbons
Email liverpoolfcmag@reachsport.com
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HOME REFLECTIONS

A Stanley Park puddle mirrors Anfield's Main Stand ahead of the Premier League fixture against Brighton & Hove Albion – a first game in L4 after four on the road in Watford, Madrid, Manchester and Preston in various competitions. Jürgen Klopp wrote in his matchday programme notes: "We have had a lot of away-games since the last international break and to be honest being back at Anfield today feels really good because it's felt like a long time since we were last together here."



CORNER TAKEN QUICKLY



Just like Barcelona in 2019, the page where you don't know what to expect...

5 LFC PLAYERS YOU'D FIND IN A GARDEN

Ronny ROSEnthal
Thiago AlcANTara
Peter WALL
STEPhane Henchoz
Tom BUSH

STATS TO TELL ANY MANCS YOU KNOW

Mo Salah (6) has scored more goals at Old Trafford in 2021 than Cristiano Ronaldo (4)

OUR LADS HAVE COME FROM ALL OVER THE PLACE

Joel Matip (Bochum, Germany)

The first thing to learn about Bochum is that it is pronounced 'Bohkh-uum'. So don't botch Bochum up when you say it.

Located at the centre of the Ruhr, Germany's largest urban area, it is the second-largest city in the country's northwestern region of Westphalia after Dortmund and is surrounded by seven other cities. Which is quite a lot.

Joel Matip was born there in 1991, 41 years after Bochum was twinned with, er, Sheffield. Bochum has a major road called Sheffield-Ring while Sheffield has a road called Bochum Parkway, a mere 4.1 miles away from Bramall Lane.

Among Bochum's most notable buildings is the Altes Brauhaus Rietkötter – a private home built in the 1630s that became a brewery in 1777 and is now a restaurant. If you happen to call in, their Bochum Pork Knuckle costs €17,50 but they do a free 'robber's plate' for kids to steal their parents' food. The cheeky scamps.

Amazingly, the musical *Starlight Express* has been running in Bochum since 1988 and has now clocked up over 12,000 performances and 17 million visitors, putting it in the *Guinness Book of Records* for the most watched musical in one location.

Better get your skates on if you want to see it.

BLAGGING IT

Two of these statements are true, the other one is made up. Can you suss it out?

- Wimbledon champion Fred Perry played tennis at Anfield in 1937.
- Australian cricketer Don Bradman scored a century at Anfield in 1938.
- World heavyweight champion Joe Louis boxed at Anfield in 1944.

Answer: Don Bradman never played cricket at Anfield. Fred Perry did play tennis in front of the Kop in 1937 and American boxer Joe Louis had a three-round exhibition fight at Anfield when visiting Liverpool in 1944 towards the end of World War II. He probably won, too.

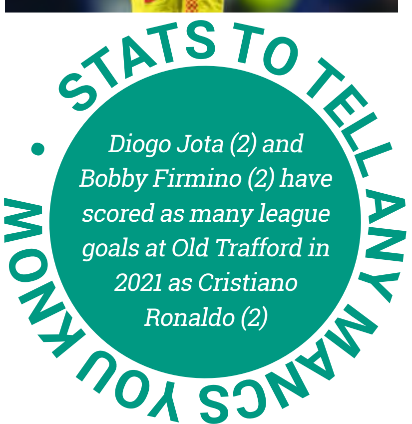
RANDOM OLD CHANT OF THE MONTH

Gary Mac, Gary Mac,
Gary, Gary Mac,
He's got no hair but we don't care,
Gary, Gary Mac!

10 Reds to have played in the USA

Tommy Smith (Tampa Bay Rowdies, 1976)
Alec Lindsay (Oakland Stompers, 1978)
Steve Heighway (Minnesota Kicks, 1981)
David Johnson (Tulsa Roughnecks, 1984)
Steve Nicol (Boston Bulldogs, 1999-2001)
Gary Ablett (Long Island Rough Riders, 2000-01)
Robbie Keane (LA Galaxy, 2011-16)
Djimi Traore (Seattle Sounders, 2013-14)
Steven Gerrard (LA Galaxy, 2015-16)
Danny Wilson (Colorado Rapids, 2018-21)





VIRGIL SAYS

Virgil van Dijk took time out recently to answer a host of questions sent in by viewers of Sky Sports, and here's what the Reds no4 had to say

HOW DOES IT FEEL BEING THE BEST DEFENDER IN THE WORLD?

Listen, I think that question's been sent in by Liverpool fans – I hope so at least!

It's nice to hear these opinions but that's what they are – opinions. Everyone has their own view on how their perfect defender has to be and I am happy that I am being seen in certain eyes as being one of the best defenders in the world.

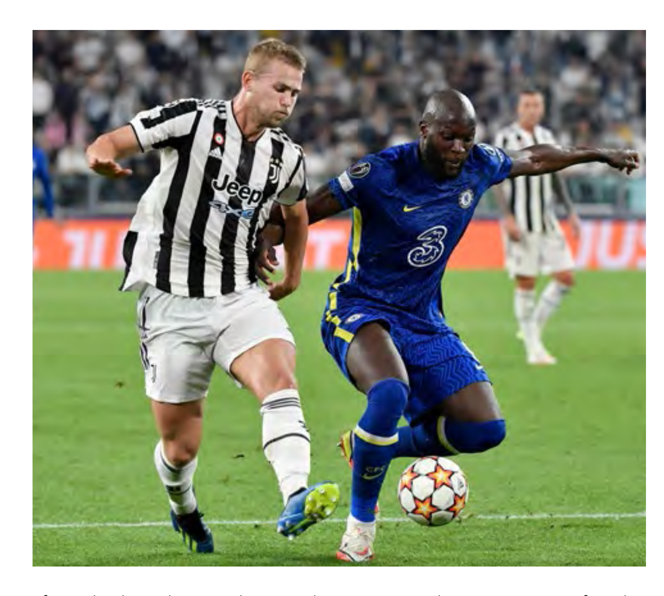
It's something that I am proud of and I have been working hard for as well. But there are plenty of other people in the world that would choose other defenders as their best in the world. Everyone has to respect each other's opinions.

WHO ELSE ARE YOU IMPRESSED BY THEN, IN TERMS OF DEFENDERS?

There are so many good defenders out there in my opinion. You can talk about the older guys such as Sergio Ramos, Thiago Silva and Gerard Pique who I have so much respect for because of what they've achieved.

But the game has evolved and now defending is getting a little bit different now. You can look at Aymeric Laporte who did very well a couple of years ago. You can look at Antonio Rudiger too. I know him personally and he had a fantastic season last year with the way that he came back from a knee injury.

I've got even more respect for him because of what I've been through now and seeing him come back and do so well.



If you look at the Dutch guys there are Matthijs De Ligt, Stefan de Vrij and Nathan Ake, who I feel is underrated.

Then if you look at our team, Joel Matip, Joe Gomez...I could name them all. Everyone has their own attributes and I look at all of them and observe how they deal with certain situations and try to learn from them, but the most important thing is that I've got respect for all of them and that's how it should be.


VIRGIL
4
Virgil
VIRGIL
2025
VIRGIL
4
YOU'LL
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WALK
13
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What Maldini achieved as a player was incredible. Also playing at a club like Milan for such a long time as well, there is so much respect there

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CHAT WITH PAOLO MALDINI AFTER THE AC MILAN GAME AT ANFIELD...

First of all, the respect there is incredible. He was such a legend of the game. Obviously he didn't always play centre-back, he was maybe more often a left-back. But the way he played and what he achieved as a player was incredible. Also playing at a club like Milan for such a long time as well, there is so much respect there.

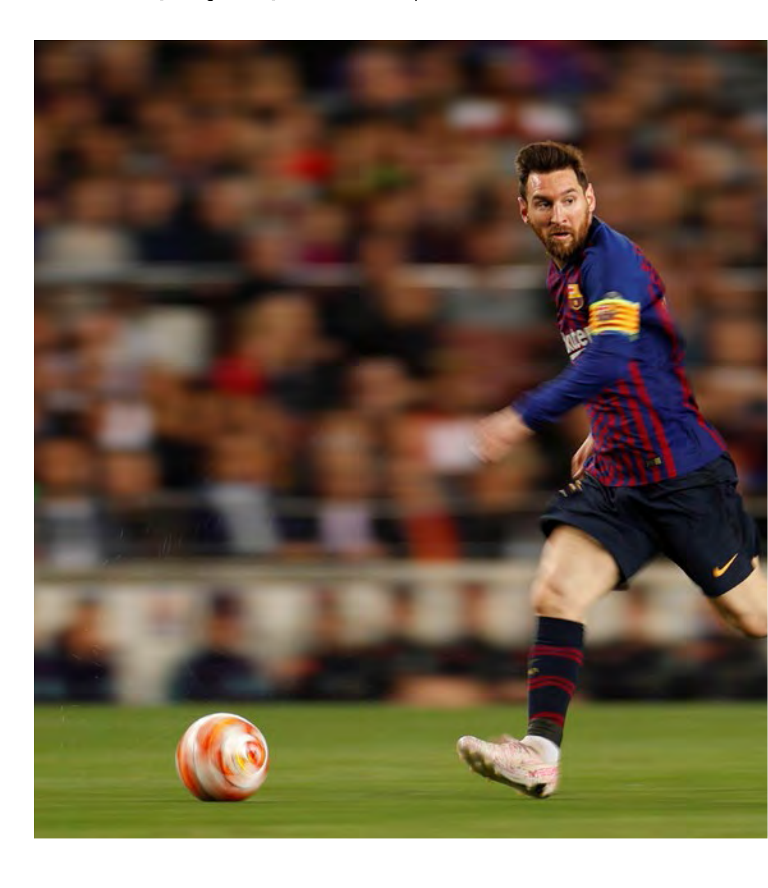
WHO IS THE TOUGHEST FORWARD YOU HAVE EVER COME UP AGAINST?

I would say Lionel Messi. I think he's still the best football player in the world. He and Cristiano Ronaldo have been producing unreal numbers for the last decade and it's incredible what they have already achieved in their careers.

But I would say Lionel Messi because it was a very tough evening for us in Barcelona in 2019 when we lost 3-0 in the first leg of the Champions League semi-final. He wasn't bad that night!

Luckily we turned the tie around at Anfield in the second leg which was good but, yes, I would say him.

I also think [Erling Braut] Haaland is a special striker because

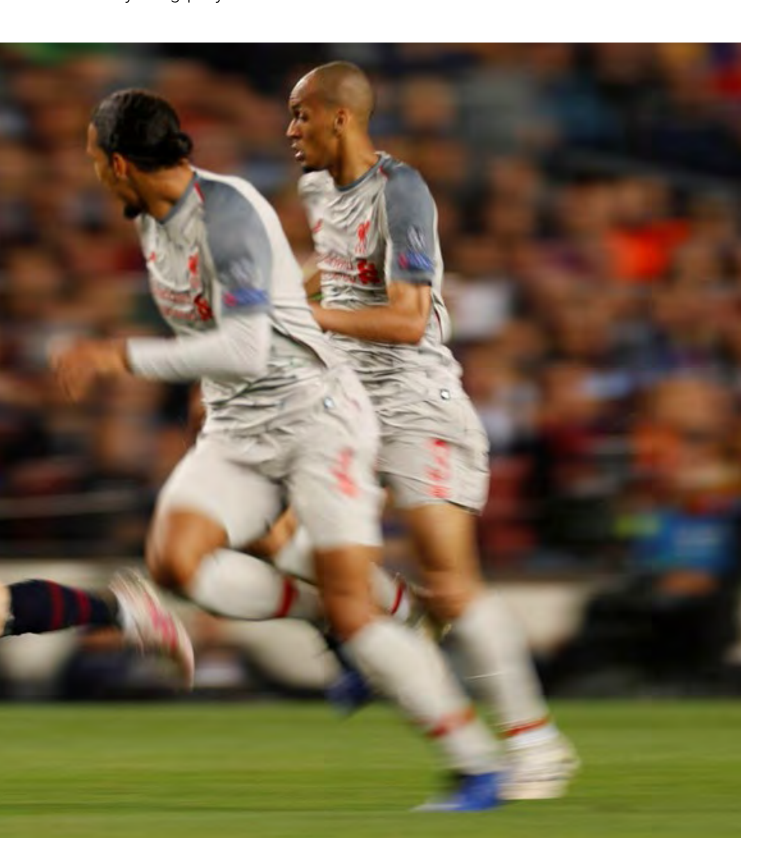




he's so strong and quick. He's got all the attributes to make a defender's life very, very difficult.

The first time I played against him was when he came on at Anfield for FC Salzburg in the Champions League a few years back and he scored. He got subbed after 65 minutes or so in the away game but it was another very tough one and he was very quick, aggressive and very direct.

He plays a little bit like Jamie Vardy does but I think Haaland is maybe a little bit stronger than Vardy. They can both be very difficult to play against and Haaland's not bad at all for such a young player.



YOU USED TO TAKE FREE KICKS FOR CELTIC – WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE ONE FOR LIVERPOOL?

Well, I've just come back from quite a long injury so I'm focusing on other things to get back to first. But if you look at our team we have Trent Alexander-Arnold and he's been showing for a couple of years that he is a very, very good free kick taker.

I think I have to be patient but maybe there will be a day when I try it again. If it works or not I have no idea!

As I say, at the moment I have just come back from the injury so I don't want to stress the knee too much at this stage but maybe in the future. I won't say never again just yet.

WHICH NETHERLANDS CUISINE DO YOU WISH THERE WAS MORE OF IN THE UK?

Croquette. It has breadcrumbs on the outside and beef in the middle. It's really nice. You can also have pitta balls with it so it's like fried pitta balls with a sauce and it's really nice.

You can't get it in the UK so you have to either order it from a Dutch website or get your family to bring it over and then fry them. I can't eat too much of it anyway because it's fried. It's a proper snack so you maybe eat it occasionally if you are out.

WHAT IS TOP OF YOUR 'BUCKET LIST' OUTSIDE OF FOOTBALL?

That is a very good question. I don't like things that you have no control over like bungee jumping. Everyone would say, 'no, it would be fine' but I'm always thinking, 'no, I'm the one who it probably wouldn't be okay for'.

I just want to travel the whole world and see places like Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. I'm curious about those places. I want to see as much as I can. I think travelling would be the main thing.



IF YOU HAD TO BE STUCK ON A DESERT ISLAND WITH TRENT OR ROBBO, WHO WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

I would pick Robbo because I think he's funnier in this case – it would never be boring! I could take both of them but Robbo is the one who could brighten up your day if things were tough or it was raining on the island. He's one of the funniest in the team.

IS THERE ANYONE IN THE LIVERPOOL TEAM THAT YOU THINK WOULD BE PARTICULARLY GOOD IN THAT SITUATION BESIDES ROBBO?

Maybe James Milner. He would probably go straight into survival mode. He would be one of the good ones, but if you wanted a nice chilled one you would just get Joel Matip over and then you'd be having a nice little holiday there!





WHO IS THE MOST ENTERTAINING PLAYER THAT YOU SHARE THE DRESSING-ROOM WITH?

I would say our two left-backs. Robbo and Kostas. Kostas is also a comedian. He's joking about, always lively, full of energy and the same goes for Robbo, so I don't know if it's a left-back thing. But both of them are very lively. They're the two names that immediately come to mind.



WHO HAS THE BEST AND WORST TRIM AT LIVERPOOL?

Well, we'll start with the worst which at the moment is not too difficult: Trent. At the moment it looks like he's just woken up and not brushed it and I have told him that many times as well!

He knows it too, so I think he's probably got something in his mind that he's going to do with it. I asked him, but he's keeping me in the dark a little bit.

As for the best, I've had my trim for years now but I like my long hair and I just have it nice and simple. If I'm playing you will see the bun and if I'm not playing, you won't see me anyway! Oxlade is doing quite a lot with his barber and trying to look fresh, Divock likes to take care of his too.

I want to see Joel Matip getting a nice fade! I told him the other day that he needs to get it done but he doesn't want it. That's how he is and I really appreciate that.

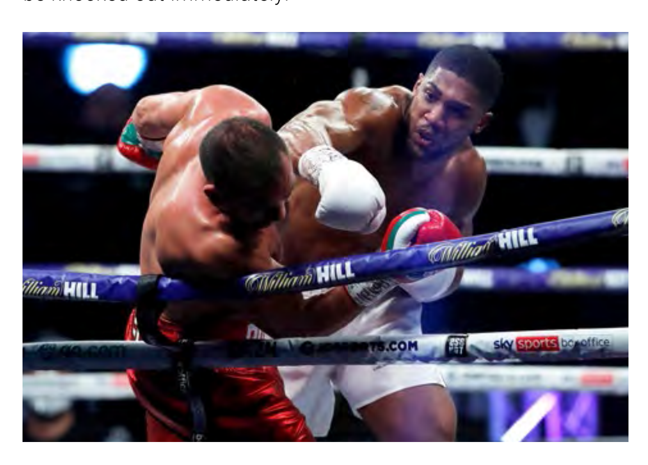
He is one of a kind. Everybody should be like him in the way that he thinks about life and then the world would be a better place.

> I think Trent's probably got something in his mind that he's going to do with his hair but he's keeping me in the dark a little bit!

WHICH LIVERPOOL PLAYER WOULD YOU LEAST LIKE TO HAVE A BOXING MATCH AGAINST?

This is a very tough one. I will say James Milner as I think that he would never give up. Even if you knocked him down, I think he would just keep getting back up and he'd have stamina as well.

I was watching the boxing recently and I thought to myself that if I had to fight Anthony Joshua and those sorts of guys I would be knocked out immediately!



> Joel is one of a kind. Everybody should be like him in the way that he thinks about life and then the world would be a better place



WHAT KEPT YOU BUSY WHILE YOU WERE OUT INJURED?

Just playing with my kids as much as possible. It maybe sounds a bit boring but we have never been so much together as a family for the last seven years as we have been in the last year or so.

I was fully focused on recovery but that was only a couple of hours during the day and the rest of the time we were together.

During the winter I was away for seven weeks in Dubai and they looked after me and my family so well at the facility there and we were also grateful for the opportunity it gave us to spend the time together and do so many good things that I will always remember for the rest of my life. So those were the main things.

When I was injured I was immediately thinking about going somewhere else because then I could focus on something else.

It was very good to get away with the family. The kids had home-schooling via Zoom which was not the easiest thing but we still managed to do it. I really believe that the whole experience helped me in my recovery and it was very good.

YOU MUST BE DELIGHTED TO BE BACK ON THE PITCH AND PLAYING REGULARLY AGAIN?

Extremely delighted, yes. Obviously I'm happy just having a buzz again of being back out there performing, competing with others and seeing all the fans.

It's just incredible and I won't take it for granted. I didn't do that before but now I just want to go out there and get the maximum out of myself.

I just want to go out there play, enjoy it and we'll see where it ends.





> I'm happy just having a buzz again of being back out there performing, competing with others and seeing all the fans


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AWAY DAZE

A look at Liverpool's fabulous free-scoring start to their Premier League away schedule

The return of fans to games this season has been a welcome boon to all clubs.

As well as the financial benefits of the attendance revenue and associated merchandising, having the backing of your own supporters behind you is a huge bonus for any team and one much-missed by every club during the heights of the COVID-19 pandemic.

But it has perhaps not been such a benefit for those teams who have been facing Jürgen Klopp's Liverpool in the early weeks of the 2021/22 season.

The manager has spoken about wanting to write new chapters in the club's rich history. Ripping up the rule-book around expectations of awaydays has been one of them.

For the first time in the club's near 130-year story, Liverpool have started a league season by scoring at least three times in each of their first five matches on the road.

So much for the intimidating atmospheres produced by hostile, partisan home support.

It wasn't so long ago that there was a footballing adage that







suggested you wouldn't be far off the pace if you won your home games and managed to pick up draws on the road.

However, such have been the standards of excellence set by Liverpool and Manchester City in recent seasons that a different narrative has taken shape.

When City pipped the Reds to the title in 2018/19 the two sides collected a remarkable 195 points out of the 228 available to them.

When the Reds ended their long wait for the Premier League



title 12 months later, they picked up 99 points, an astonishing 86.8 per cent of the possible points.

When Liverpool had previously won the title in 1989/90 they scored 40 goals away from home (two more than at Anfield) from the 19 games on their travels.

So far this season they have bagged almost half that tally (19) from their first handful of fixtures to the delight of the travelling Kop who have tended to board coaches and trains more in expectation than hope.

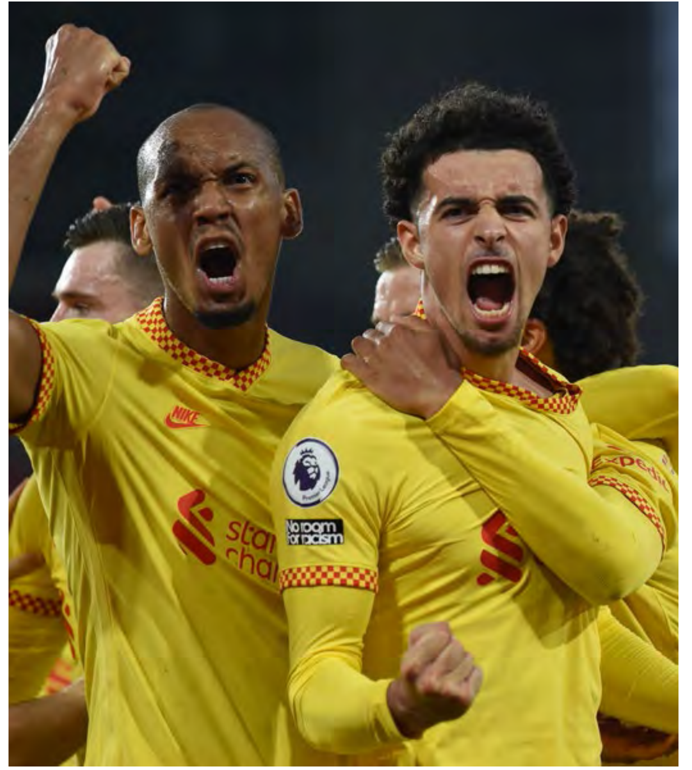
In all competitions, Liverpool had scored 32 goals in their nine away matches played to the end of October.

"Wow. Yes it's not a bad [total] to be honest, not bad at all," said attacker Sadio Mane. "But that is why we work so hard. It











has been coming off for us, so we have to enjoy it and always try to push ourselves and try to do better and better."

The Reds kicked off their Premier League road trips with 3-0 victories at Norwich City and Leeds United before playing out a thrilling 3-3 draw at Brentford in a game which might easily have brought even more goals.

Following last month's international break they picked up in style by recording back-to-back 5-0 wins at Watford and Manchester United.

It was the first time the Reds had put together back-to-back 5-0 league wins away from Anfield. They became the first Premier League side to do so and only the second team in English top-flight history to win consecutive away games by a margin of five or more goals without conceding themselves, after Manchester United in February/March 1960.

That game saw other records set too. Mohamed Salah, responsible for seven of the Reds' 19 goals in those first handful of away trips, became the first opposing player to score a Premier League hat-trick at Old Trafford while the win itself was also a club record victory for Liverpool at Manchester United.

"We wanted to write our own chapters in the history book





and this was another," Klopp said after the game.

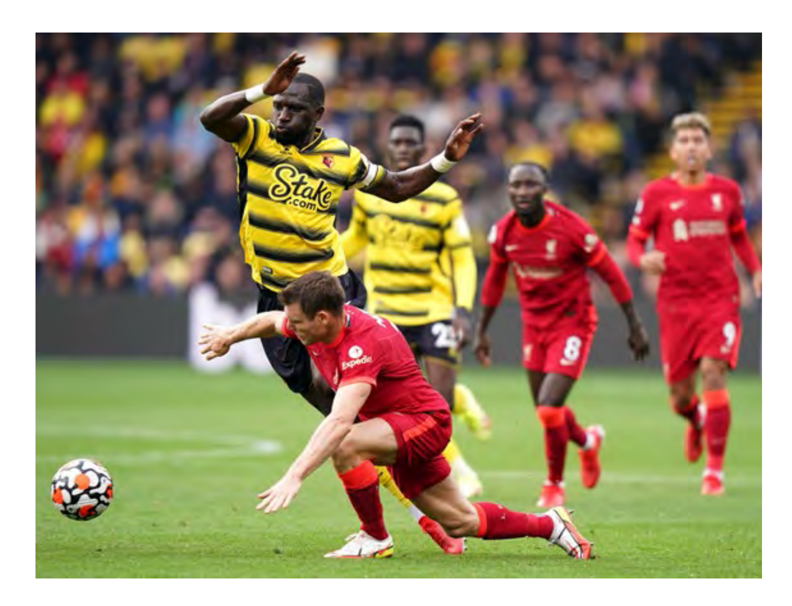
Defender Andy Robertson added: "It was our biggest away win against Man United so that will go into the record books of Liverpool because it's our biggest rivalry and the game gets talked up so much beforehand.

"To be able to have that for our fans is good but, of course, unfortunately you don't get extra points for performances like that.

"I'm sure our fans enjoyed that evening but for us it was a case of focusing on the next game and I can assure you that nobody was caught up in the performance."

Liverpool's run of netting at least three goals in Premier League away games since the return of crowds actually extended to six games when you factor in the final away fixture of last season.

Burnley were granted permission for 3,500 fans to attend









TAKE FIVE

Liverpool's first five PL away games

3-0 v Norwich City (Jota, Firmino, Salah)
3-0 v Leeds United (Salah, Fabinho, Mane)
3-3 v Brentford (Jota, Salah, Jones)
5-0 v Watford (Firmino 3, Mane, Salah)
5-0 v Man United (Keita, Jota, Salah 3)

their final home game of the campaign against the Reds.

Liverpool needed a victory to keep up their hopes of clinching Champions League qualification but despite the raucous backing of the Clarets supporters on a Wednesday night at Turf Moor, the Reds came through the test with flying colours. Goals from Roberto Firmino, Nat Phillips and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain ensured they secured the points.

The final word goes to Virgil van Dijk who admits the Reds' free-scoring goalscoring form has made his return to action an enjoyable one.

"It does take a lot of pressure off the defence but in order to get there, you still all have to do it together," he says. "Everyone has a job to do and everyone has responsibilities on the pitch and obviously for our forwards and strikers scoring goals is one of them. At the moment they are doing quite well and hopefully we can keep that going."


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BEST IN CLASS

Whichever position he plays, there is no other footballer in the world quite like Bobby Firmino, as his manager and team-mates are delighted to make clear



It was after Roberto Firmino marked his 299th appearance for Liverpool with a hat-trick at Watford then worked his socks off in his 300th game against Atletico Madrid that Jürgen Klopp asked a rhetorical question.

"How can you not love Bobby Firmino?"

Klopp loves him. His team-mates love him. And Liverpool supporters love him. Even when he isn't playing, the Anfield crowd or travelling Kop repeatedly belt out his name to one of the finest songs we've ever had for a player.

Yet it has somehow always felt that it is only when Firmino scores goals that he gets anything like the wider recognition he deserves for what he contributes to this Liverpool team.

Klopp made the point, in his own way, when a journalist asked what Firmino offers to the team ahead of the Premier League trip to Manchester United. "Oh, so we start talking about Roberto Firmino in that much detail again?" replied the Liverpool boss before giving those who needed it a reminder of what our Bobby Dazzler gives to the Mighty Reds.

Words: Chris McLoughlin



"He's a very important player for us, he's a connector," he said. "He's the best offensive defender I ever saw in my life, definitely. He's a ball-chaser, he's incredibly smart with all the things he's doing, technically on the highest level and is able to play in the smallest spaces.

"He can make incredibly good decisions in a really short time and on top of that scores goals as well.

"That's why we are all so happy when, time-to-time, he rewards himself with a hat-trick or whatever.

"Everyone in the team loves it because obviously sometimes you think he's a bit short of getting the praise for the effort he puts in.

"I'm not sure about the numbers, but I'm 100 per cent sure as an offensive player he ran the most in the last game at Atletico and that says a lot!

"He's a brilliant boy and a brilliant player. It's really a joy to work together with him.

"The way we play it's not impossible without him because we have options, which is good, but how we started playing years ago was because Bobby could play the role he played. He was very, very influential in all the things we did.

"Bobby is a positive but very – with me at least – very calm person. Everybody loves Bobby, there is no doubt about it. How can you not? If he was not a nice person, the players would love him because he is doing all the work for them so it helps them!

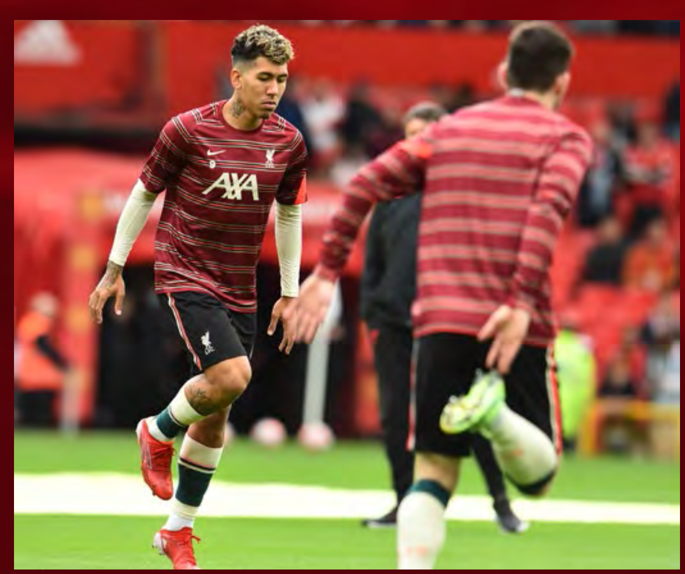
"Mo and Sadio love him because he puts them up, passes the ball – not always the last pass, but the second-last.

"All the midfielders love him because he is chasing all the offensive players of the opponents. And the last line love him as well for the same reason.

"Ali and he are best friends anyway, so how can you not love Bobby Firmino?

"When he scores it's always an extra bit of joy. We never had









"BOBBY IS A POSITIVE BUT VERY - WITH ME AT LEAST - VERY CALM PERSON. EVERYBODY LOVES BOBBY, THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. HOW CAN YOU NOT?"

the discussion about Bobby not scoring enough, but you face the questions quite frequently.

"He wouldn't play if he was not incredibly important anyway."

Despite having played more games than any other player under Klopp's management – the 5-0 win against Manchester United at Old Trafford was Bobby's 294th appearance since Klopp was appointed – and almost exclusively been used in the 'false nine' role for over six seasons, it's baffling that there are still some people who only judge Firmino on his strike rate.

His return of nine goals last season earned him some criticism. It was the Brazilian's lowest tally since he arrived at Anfield in 2015 and was viewed by some as suggesting decline in a player who had his most prolific campaign in season 2017/18, when he was on target 27 times.

Yet Liverpool supporters are a knowledgeable bunch and see

"WHEN HE SCORES IT'S ALWAYS AN EXTRA BIT OF JOY. WE NEVER HAD THE DISCUSSION ABOUT BOBBY NOT SCORING ENOUGH, BUT HE WOULDN'T PLAY IF HE WAS NOT INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT"



the bigger picture. Form is temporary, class is permanent, and it could never have been better emphasised during the Reds' thoroughly enjoyable away win against Manchester United. Did we mention it was 5-0?

How many goals did Firmino score? None. How many direct assists did he make? None. How many goals was he involved in? All five.

No wonder his manager was again singing his praises in the post-match press-conference on Zoom.

"He played, again, outstandingly well," said Klopp, who had just won his 200th game as LFC boss quicker than any of his predecessors.

"Mo gets a lot of attention and rightly so, but Bobby, for people with football knowledge, I'm pretty sure when he finishes playing people will write books about the way he



interpreted the false-nine position.

"I don't say he invented it or we invented it, but with the way he plays it, from time to time it looks like [that]!

"There are different things to do on the pitch. Some of them are defensive and what he did in that department tonight was absolutely insane, and offensively he is obviously a nice link-up player and he finishes off from time to time as well.

"So yeah, Bobby knows how much we appreciate what he is doing and maybe that is a bit more important."

Firmino didn't invent the false nine position – it was first credited as being adopted by Gilbert Oswald Smith

BOBBY VERSUS UNITED

GOAL 1 NABY KEITA (5 MINS)

For Liverpool's first goal – the Reds' quickest-ever in a league game at Old Trafford – it was Firmino that initially won possession when he beat Scott McTominay in the air to win a header on the touchline.

Liverpool kept the ball, played it back to Alisson and gradually drew United out, exposing their disjointed pressing game. The visitors played through them and it eventually led to Firmino receiving the ball in space in the left-centre of the park. He slipped a pass into the path of Mo Salah, who sent Naby Keita running in behind Luke Shaw to side-foot home. One-nil.



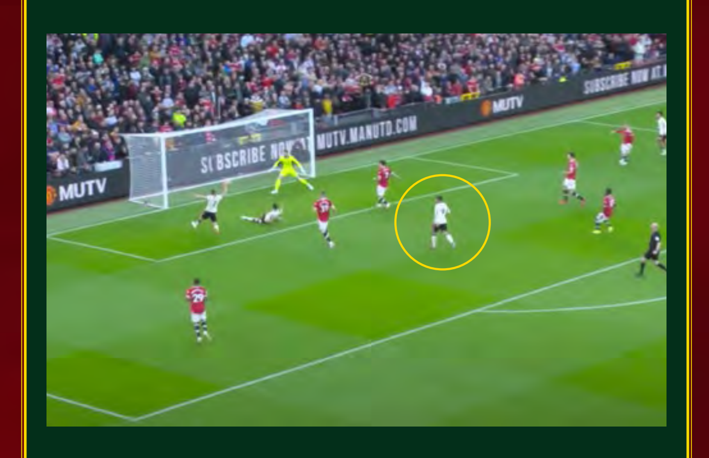
GOAL 2 DIOGO JOTA (14 MINS)

During the move for Liverpool's second, Firmino dropped so deep to receive a pass from Virgil van Dijk that there were four players – Salah, Diogo Jota, Keita and James Milner – ahead of him.

So concerned were United that Andy Robertson would give the ball back to him in space, they failed to realise Liverpool had worked a 4 v 3 scenario.

As Aaron Wan-Bissaka came out to meet him, Robertson chipped the ball to Keita. Harry Maguire and Shaw collided with one another as they went to challenge him. 'Naby lad' rolled the ball to Trent Alexander-Arnold, who slid a low cross in for Jota to convert at the far-post.

Incidentally, when the ball hit the net, Firmino was close to the penalty spot ready to pounce on any rebound. Two-nil.



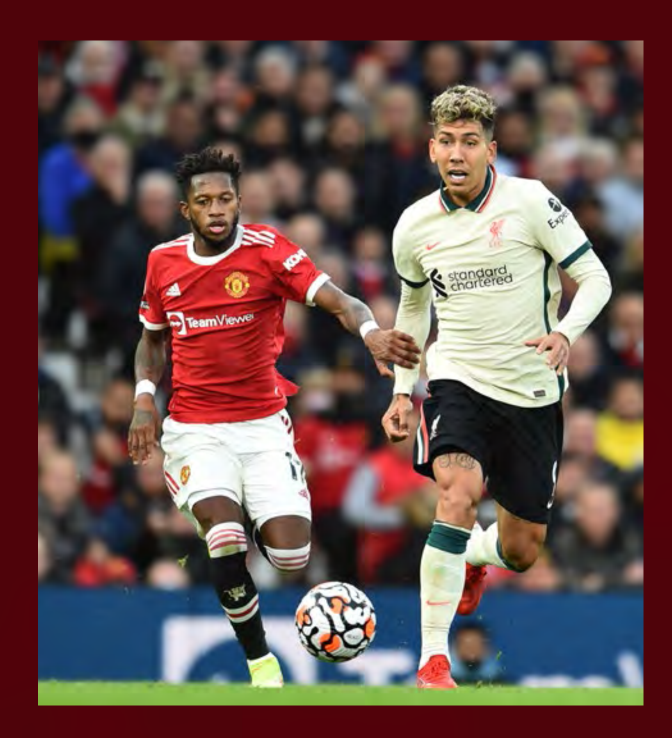


of amateur side Corinthians (whom Liverpool beat 5-1 in the Sheriff of London Charity Shield in 1906) during the 1890s – but some of his Anfield team-mates think he has taken it to a different level.

"Bobby does it better than anyone in world football so it's not easy to follow him," said Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain after playing in that role during pre-season.

"It's similar to how the more advanced midfielder plays in the team but a little bit different defensively to get used to.

"In that sort of role that Bobby plays, the false nine, I think he's the best in the business at it for us and in attacking



situations he makes it so much easier for Mo and Sadio or Diogo, just dropping deep and leaving spaces in behind for them and then attracting people, and then defensively as well.

"But the way that role is played, it's almost similar to a number 10 attacking-midfield role because you drop quite deep."

Thiago Alcantara, who has played as a number 10 at times during his own career, agrees with the Ox.

"For me, our number 10 is Bobby Firmino. He is doing the job of number nine and number 10. For the last years he has been doing the same because he has lots of great passing characteristics and skills.

"He's having to arrive in the area, but at the same time he's having to come back and play and turn. He's like the old number 10 but he's our striker at the same point."

The fact that Firmino has made 64 direct assists – 43 in the Premier League and 14 in the Champions League – so far during his Liverpool career shouldn't go overlooked.

Add that to his 93 goals, 91 of them from open-play, and that



GOAL 3 MO SALAH (38 MINS)

There was no surprise that Salah got on the scoresheet at Old Trafford, but United seemed surprised that Firmino popped up on the right side of the pitch in the build-up to Liverpool's third goal.

Unmarked, he picked up a pass from Alexander-Arnold and slipped the ball to Jordan Henderson, before running inside to receive it back via Keita. He then linked the play with a pass to Salah, who back-heeled it to him on the run, and knocked another pass to Jota (below), who teed up Salah to shoot.

His effort was blocked by Maguire, but Keita seized on the rebound first to cross low into the box where Salah shrugged off Shaw and arrived at the front-post to fire home. Three-nil.



GOAL 4 MO SALAH (45 MINS)

Amazingly it was 4-0 before half-time and that man Firmino was involved again. This time, spotting a gaping chasm between United centre-halves Maguire and Victor Lindelof, Firmino was in the traditional number nine position and signalled for Jota to clip the ball to him.

As he received it with his back to goal, Maguire dashed across to challenge him, but Firmino was already on the half-turn. Realising Maguire was in trouble, Fred rushed back to double-team Firmino, allowing Maguire to toe-poke the ball away.

But the United skipper only gave it to Robertson, who slipped a pass to Jota inside the box and he found Salah in acres of space. The Stretford End net bulged again a second later to send numerous home fans heading for the exit. Four-nil.




"I DON'T SAY HE INVENTED THE FALSE-NINE POSITION OR WE INVENTED IT, BUT WITH THE WAY HE PLAYS IT, FROM TIME TO TIME IT LOOKS LIKE THAT!"

is 157 goal contributions in 301 appearances (as of the 5-0 win at Manchester United).

Which is a superb record when you consider it is in addition to the 243 goals – and 84 assists – Salah and Mane have contributed during that time. No wonder the pair both love Liverpool's number nine.

"Bobby is a really important player for us," said Salah during an interview last season. "He has been unbelievable. Without him we couldn't win the Champions League or Premier League.

"He sacrificed himself for the team and the way he plays, he gives us more chances to score. He has been an unbelievable player, inside and outside the field."

Sadio is singing from the same book of praise. "I think that it is part of football where people always speak about the players who are scoring the goals, but I have always said – and I will say it again – that without Firmino we wouldn't be the same.

"In the five years I have been playing with him you can see how many passes and how many assists he has provided and then you can look at his defensive work for us too and his work between the lines to make the space for us to make everything easier. So I think he is unbelievable.

"We know ourselves how good Bobby is and how important he is for us but it's sometimes only after a hat-trick that more people will talk. But certainly within the squad we know that he is one of the best players in the world."

As Jürgen Klopp said, how can you not love Bobby Firmino?

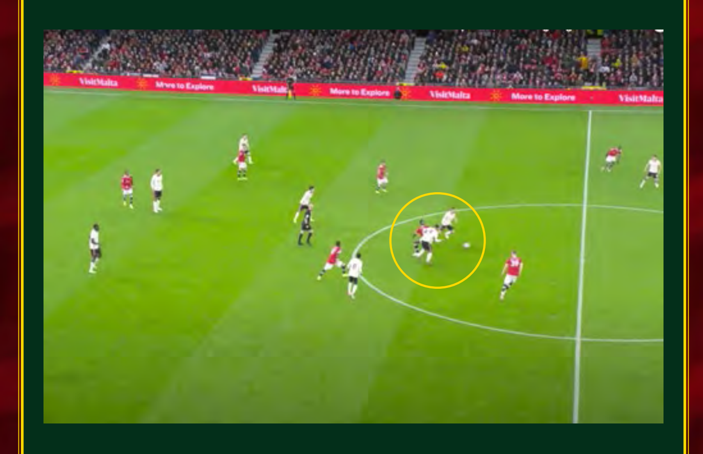




GOAL 5 MO SALAH (50 MINS)

United brought on Paul Pogba at half-time to give them an extra man in midfield, but he soon discovered why Klopp rates Firmino as "the best offensive defender I ever saw in my life."

Pogba received the ball in the centre-circle inside the Liverpool half, but before he could even look up Firmino challenged him from behind. With Henderson also in close attendance, Firmino tackled Pogba and in the blink of an eye the Liverpool skipper was clipping an unbelievable pass – *a la* Steven Gerrard to Daniel Sturridge at Fulham in 2014 – for Salah to run onto and slot past David de Gea to complete a 13-minute hat-trick.



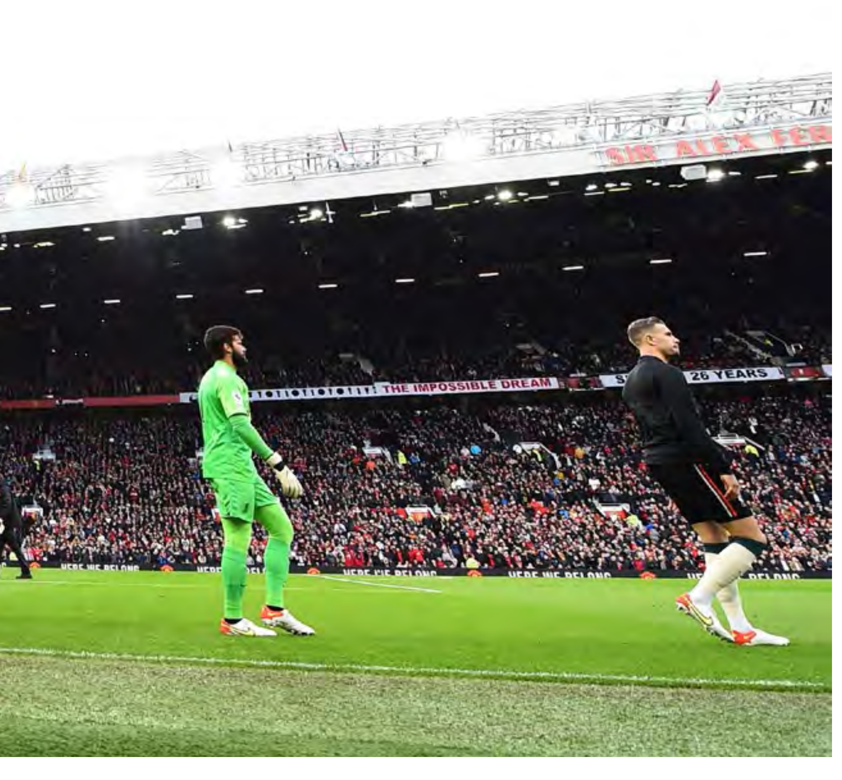
FIVE-NIL. WHAT A NIGHT.




OUR
DAY
OUT.
HENDERSON
14

It's ancient history, it's gone now and it means nothing… but how could we possibly deprive Reds fans of the best images from that incredible, once-in-a-lifetime result against our fiercest rivals





Talk about a where-were-you-when moment. Sunday 24 October 2021. Manchester United 0 Liverpool 5. Maybe it will never quite sink in. Perhaps it'll never ever be repeated. It's simply one of those rare days against a historic rival when everything clicks for your side and nothing goes right for the others.

In the past the Reds have been on the receiving end of damaging home defeats by United in the Premier League – a couple of results in the late 1990s still make Kopites of a certain age wince – and everyone knows that fortunes can change very quickly in this long-term game of ups and downs. Even so, this was a day – and a performance – to savour.

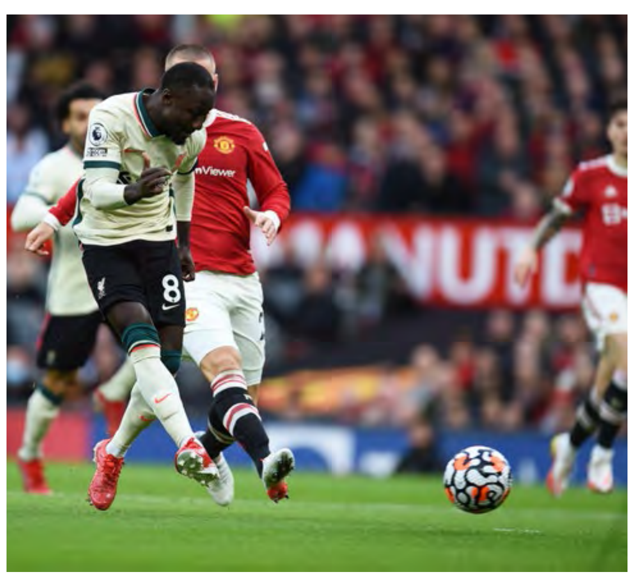
Two days before the fixture, manager Jürgen Klopp had spoken about Mo Salah's outstanding form, highlighting his first goal in the Champions League game at Atletico Madrid previously in midweek but also stressing the need for his team to be strong defensively at Old Trafford.

"I said it a couple of times and it's the truth, I'm blessed with incredible players that I've worked together with… It's all about the quality of Mo in this moment to do it, to try it and you can imagine how much all the players of Atletico knew about this ability and wanted to defend it, desperately, and still couldn't do it. Pretty special, pretty special."

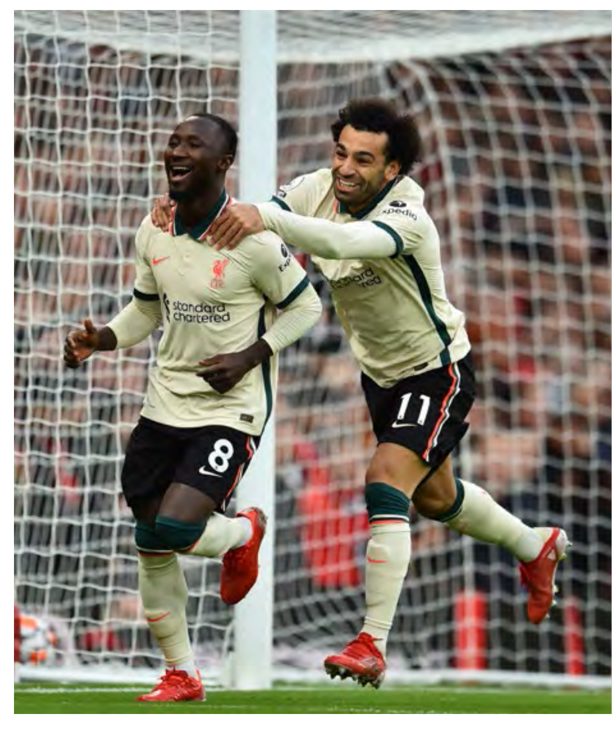
Could Mo emulate Cristiano Ronaldo in terms of longevity? "Yes. You need luck because things can happen, injuries and stuff like







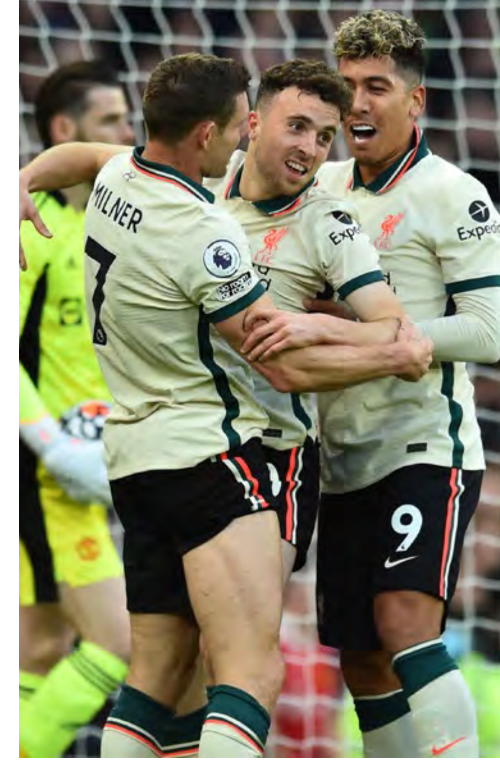


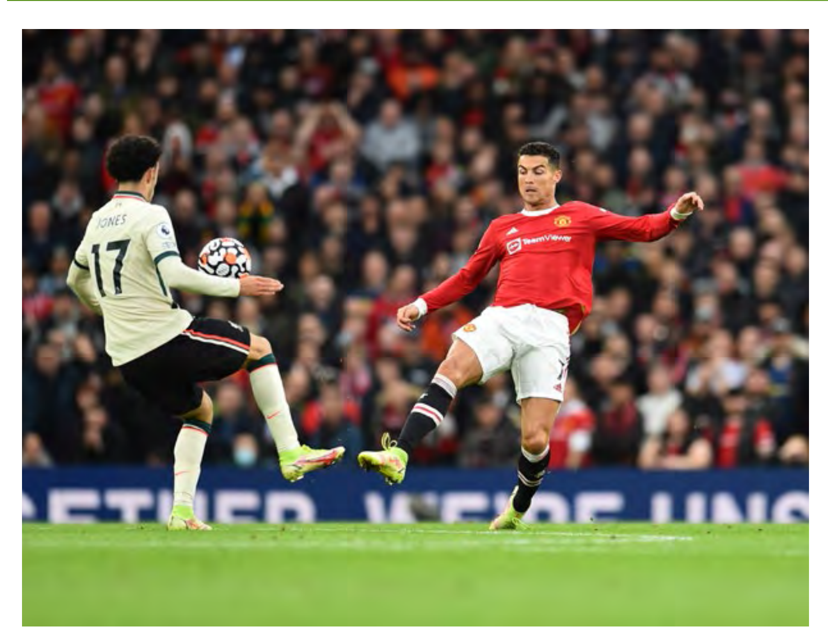

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MILNER
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this, but I think the professionalism of both [players] is probably the one thing you can compare 100 per cent or say is probably the same.

"Mo is incredibly professional. He's really the first in [training] and very, very often the last out of all the players. He is constantly interested in all the different things he can do, he has to do to improve or keep the standard or to improve the standard – all these kind of things. I think he has still a lot to give, 100 per cent."

But, warned the boss, "If you don't defend well against United… the quality they have offensively is absolutely ridiculous. We have to consider that. I really don't think it's very likely that you score three goals at United, but before a game we never think about scoring more than we do about defending.

"So for us, it's 100 per cent clear that to get in a game, to stay in a game and to win a game, you have to defend on your absolute highest level. We have to focus on that but not only that because we have to create as well. We have to play football – very important – and we have to be incredibly brave. Brave because each ball you lose against United is a massive threat, it's a counter-attack threat with the speed they have.

"It's a proper task to play United but we still want to do it and are looking forward to it because it's one of the biggest games in the world. It will be a good one."



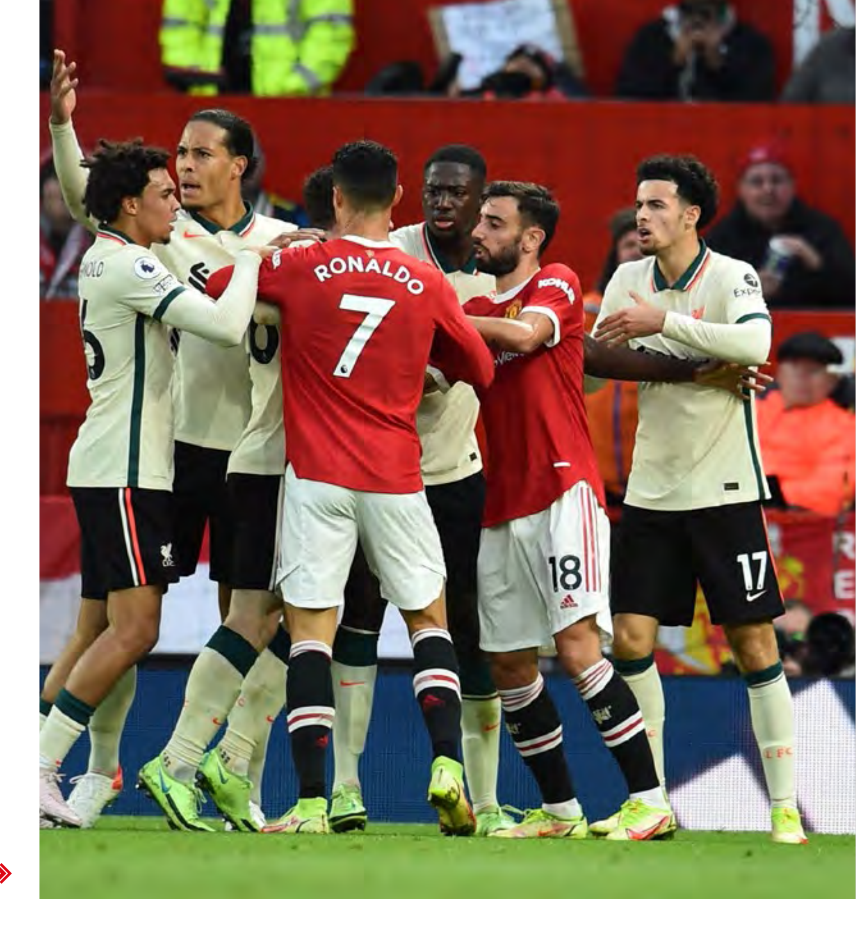
The starting XI that took to the Old Trafford pitch in an away kit which has wowed the fans was: Alisson, Alexander-Arnold, Konate, Van Dijk, Robertson, Keita, Henderson, Milner, Salah, Firmino and Jota. On the bench: Adrian, Gomez, Tsimikas, Matip, Jones, Mane, Oxlade-Chamberlain, Minamino and Origi.

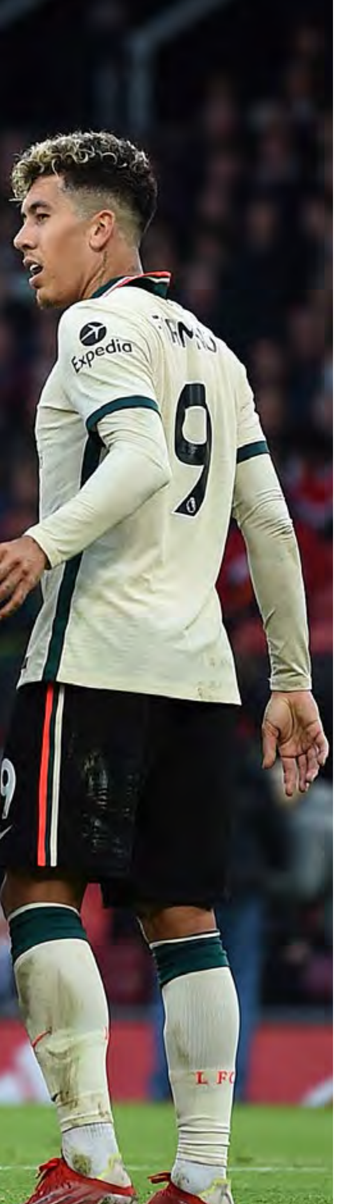
After an early scare when Bruno Fernandes blazed over for the hosts, Liverpool worked the ball through United's lines via Andy Robertson, down the left to Diogo Jota, then inside to Roberto Firmino. He slipped the ball through to Mo Salah who turned, ran and played in Naby Keita to pass past David de Gea at the Stretford End. Soon after, a defensive mix-up allowed Keita to find Trent Alexander-Arnold perfectly-positioned to cross hard and low for Diogo Jota to make it two-nil.

What followed was The Salah Show, as arguably the best player in the world netted with first-time finishes, right foot then left, from assists by Keita and Jota to send the Reds into the interval four up, then completed a 13-minute hat-trick after the break from a sublime Jordan Henderson through-ball which had Gerrard-at-Fulham written all over it.

The Egyptian King thus became the highest-scoring African in Premier League history, the first away player to fire an away PL hat-trick against Manchester United, and he also extended his goalscoring run to 10 in a row.

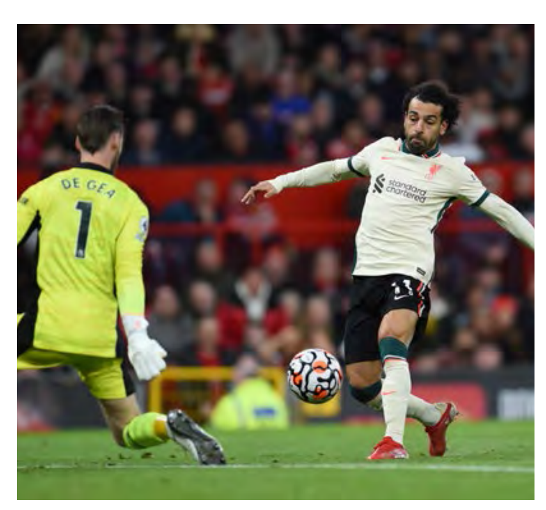
United had a Ronaldo strike chalked-off for offside and substitute Paul Pogba sent off for a lunge on Keita, while only a




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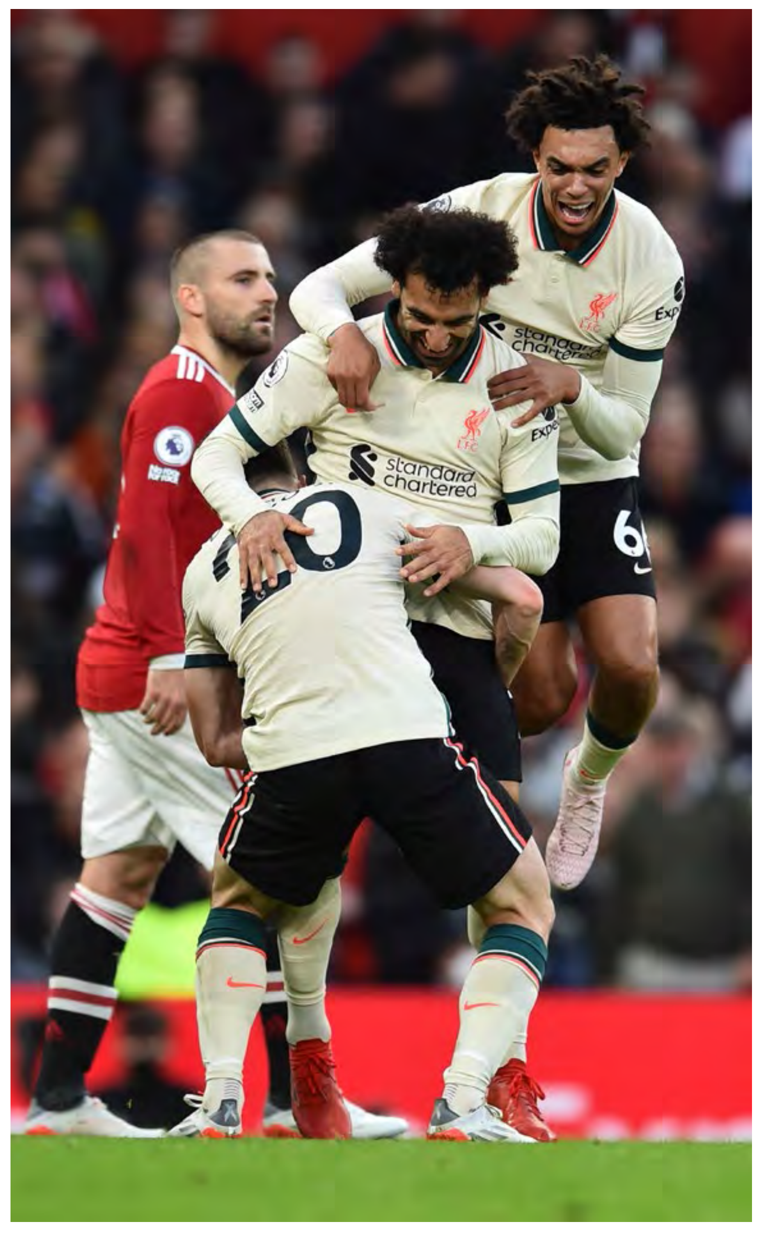

AXA




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fine David de Gea save prevented Alexander-Arnold from making it six. Percentage possession-wise, it was 63-37 in Liverpool's favour, with the visitors recording 19 shots to United's 12.

"This group always wanted to write their own little chapters for the big, big history book of this club," said Jürgen Klopp after recording his 200th win as LFC boss. "This one was a little one tonight, a little chapter."

Straightaway the manager and his players prepared for the subsequent visit of Brighton to Anfield. In his matchday programme notes Klopp warned: "I am conscious that the result last weekend in Manchester in particular will have caused excitement and that's absolutely fine. We were excited also, although for us we do quickly put a lid on that.

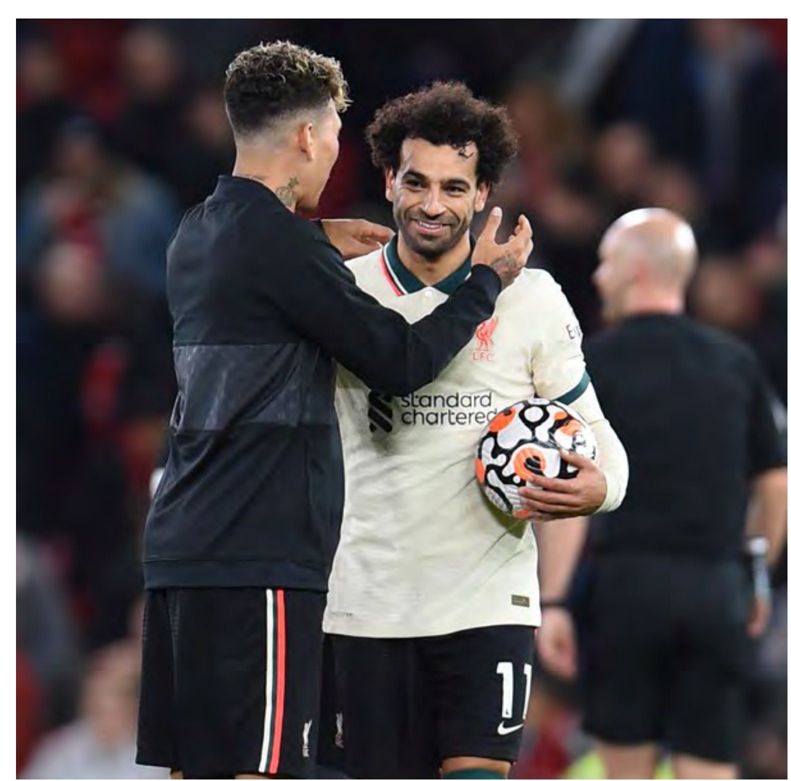
"I watched the press conference ahead of the Preston game [in the Carabao Cup] which my assistant-manager Pep Lijnders hosted and he spoke about the reaction in the dressing-room at full-time. If the past 18 months has taught us anything it is that we should enjoy special moments collectively when we can. Enjoy and cherish each other – that's what we did.

"But what is most telling about our group is how we reacted the next day. We closed the book on Old Trafford the very next morning and were back in work mode.

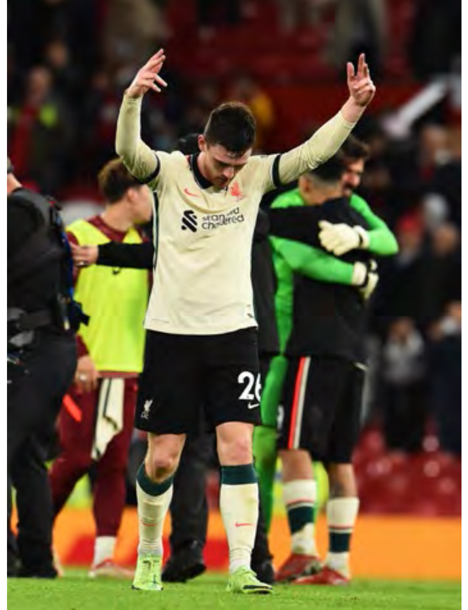
"After each game – win, lose or draw – I address the squad the next morning before we train. The meeting never changes that much really. We acknowledge what has happened the previous day, good and bad, then we draw a line and move on.











"We immediately focus on what's next. This has to be our mentality. From the matches we take information. We take what we can learn from – again that's positive and negatives. But we never dwell. We are never satisfied.

"I love that our fans have been able to enjoy what we have done so far this season and it is their job to dream. It is ours to deliver. And to deliver what we think we are capable of, we need always to be in the moment.

"The only thing that can help you from a previous game is the information you take from it, personally and collectively. The result and even the performance doesn't carry over. If you allow your focus to be in the rear-view mirror rather than looking straight at what's in front of you, then what's gone before can be a distraction.

"We will not allow this. This group of players are all about what's next – and that's how they treat each and every day."



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW **MO?**

Madame Tussauds did their research and now it's your turn – twenty questions and no excuses



1. Mo's waxwork at Madame Tussauds is wearing the cream suit he wore on the front cover of which well-known magazine: (a) Esquire (b) GQ (c) Monocle?



Main image courtesy Madame Tussauds London



L.F.C.

2 How many followers does Salah have on Instagram and what is the two-word tagline underneath his name?

3 How many minutes did it take Mo to score his hat-trick against Manchester United at Old Trafford last month?

4 After the United match which striker-turned-pundit described Salah as "the best player on the planet right now – nobody can live with him"?



5 Mo's hat-trick versus United was the first scored by an away player at Old Trafford in the league since Dennis Bailey for which club back on 1 January 1992?

6 Against which two other sides has Mo also scored a Premier League hat-trick?

7 True or false: Salah has now scored in three successive visits to Old Trafford?

8 Which two other players with the initials 'MS" have played for Liverpool under Jurgen Klopp?

9 How many Premier League goals has Salah scored with his right foot this season and against whom?

10 Mo is now the highest-scoring African in the Premier League ahead of Didier Drogba, Sadio Mane and which former Arsenal, Manchester City, Tottenham Hotspur and Crystal Palace striker?

11 Up to and including the 2-2 draw with Brighton he'd provided assists in this season's Premier League for Jordan Henderson, Naby Keita, Sadio Mane, Roberto Firmino and which other team-mate?




11
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12 As of 1 November 2021, against clubs from which country had Mo scored more Champions League goals: Italy, Spain or Portugal?

13 Has Salah ever scored in the League Cup for Liverpool?

14 Which former Reds team-mate, now playing in Spain, was born three days before Mo in June 1992?

15 How many games did it take Salah to score his 100 Premier League goals for Liverpool?

16 How many seconds separated Mo's wondergoal at home to Chelsea in April 2019 with the first goal scored by Sadio Mane in that memorable game?





17 Against whom did Salah score his first goal from open-play at Anfield this season?

18 Who wore the Liverpool no11 jersey before Mo?

19 How many times has Salah been voted African Footballer of the Year?

20 How many goals did Mo score for Egypt at the 2018 World Cup finals?



***ANSWERS**: 1. GQ magazine; 2. He has 45.3 million followers and it says 'Always believing'; 3. It took 13 minutes – he scored in the 38th, 45th and 50th minutes of the match; 4. Alan Shearer; 5. Queens Park Rangers; 6 Bournemouth (away) in December 2018 and Leeds United (home) in September 2020; 7. True – he scored in last season's FA Cup fourth-round tie then the Premier Leaguer fixture, before his treble last month; 8. Martin Skrtel and Mamadou Sakho; 9. Two – his first away at Manchester United and his goal at home to Manchester City; 10. Emmanuel Adebayor; 11. Diogo Jota in the opening-weekend win at Norwich City; 12. Italy – he's scored five against Roma (2), Napoli, Atalanta and AC Milan (four versus Spanish clubs Atletico Madrid, Real Madrid and Sevilla, and four v Porto of Portugal); 13. No – in fact he's only made two appearances, as a substitute against Chelsea (home) in the third round of September 2018 and versus Arsenal (home) in the fourth round of October 2020; 14. Philippe Coutinho; 15. It took him 151 games to do so; 16. They were 142 seconds apart; 17. Against Crystal Palace on Saturday 18 September 2021, volleying first-time past Eagles goalkeeper Vicente Guaita from inside the six-yard box; 18. Roberto Firmino, who switched to no9 when Salah arrived at Anfield; 19. Twice, in 2017 and 2018; 20. Two – against Russia and Saudi Arabia in the group stage of the tournament.*


F.A. Cup final, Wembley 196
Liverpool 2 Leeds 1
"THAT WAS THE GREATEST MOMEN
OF MY LIFE WINNING THE CUP,
NOT FOR ME,
BUT FOR THE PEOPLE
OF LIVERPOOL."
-Bill Shankly

WHERE THE ART IS

With murals making the headlines as much as matches, here's the pick of the large-scale street-art inspired by a love of Liverpool FC and where to find it, around the stadium in Anfield and the city at large



Liverpool FC: it's all about the street-art. In recent years the Reds have inspired local artists to create spectacular murals of Jürgen Klopp and his trophy-chasing players in the city-centre and around the corner from the stadium in Anfield.

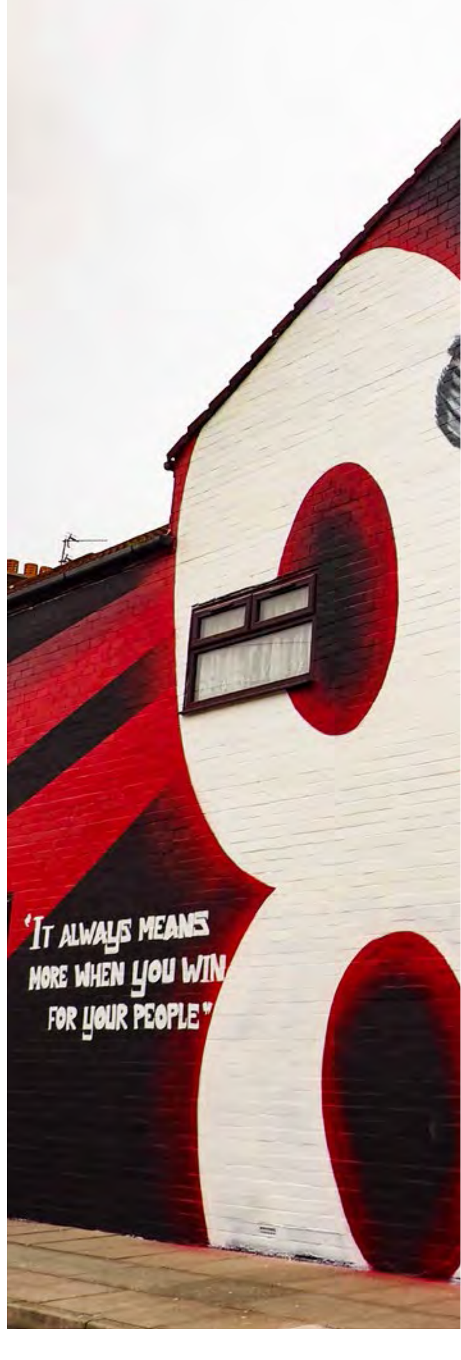
Most recently Reds legend Steven Gerrard and double European Cup-winner Alan Kennedy were the subjects of the latest LFC artwork on Anfield's Dinorwic Road, with the latter giving his approval in person.

The project was undertaken by MurWalls who are responsible for other street-art celebrations of Liverpool FC heroes and work in an official capacity with the club.

They also created the mural of legendary goalkeeper Ray Clemence on Wylva Road, officially unveiled by his daughter Sarah plus grandchildren Harry, Lilly, Freddie and Claudia in October 2020 a month before he passed away, plus one of boyhood Blue-turned-Reds star Jamie Carragher in honour of his 23 Foundation (which has raised almost £3 million for local causes since 2009) on Bootle's Marsh Lane.

Earlier this season a mural dedicated to Hillsborough





Alan Kennedy and Steven Gerrard photos by Courtney Neary







campaigner Anne Williams – mum of Kevin, one of the 97 we lost – was unveiled on Sunbury Road in Anfield. This was the work of artist Paul Curtis, who said: "Anne is someone that the city can be proud of. She's the right sort of person to have a mural, to have a tribute to her."

Street-art has been around for a while. Utilising techniques such as spray-painting and stencilling, and originating from the late 1970s graffiti scene in New York (one of its pioneers incidentally, Keith Haring, was recently the subject of a retrospective at Tate Liverpool), it's been described as a city's outdoor museum. Banksy is the most famous current exponent.

National Geographic magazine comments: "While it is easy, upon coming across a beautiful work of art on a city's wall, to simply snap a photo, upload it to Instagram and move on, the best street-art merits spending a few moments to think about what it wants to say."

Back in Liverpool in the summer of 2017, Paul Curtis created a striking image of Liver Bird wings in Jamaica Street, in the



city's cutting-edge Baltic Triangle neighbourhood. People flocked to be photographed 'wearing' the wings and it quickly became one of the most Instagrammable places in town.

In December 2018 it was joined by a mural of Jürgen Klopp in nearby Jordan Street, the work of graffiti-artist Akse over the course of one weekend, while another of the Reds boss emerged on the wall of an Anfield bar, Klopp's Boot Room in Houlding Street. This one was made by John Culshaw, a self-taught street-artist who lost his arm in a childhood accident.

"It was a pleasure to work on Klopp because I am a huge LFC fan," John told the *Liverpool Echo*. "I would say he is our best manager since Bill Shankly. I obviously want him to stay at the club for as long as possible and this mural is a personal tribute to him from me."

Previously John had created an artwork featuring Steven Gerrard and Everton legend Peter Reid, for a barbers in Huyton near where the pair grew up. "I later received a nice message from Steven on Instagram which I really appreciated."

In 2019 when the Reds won their sixth European Cup, a bar in Concert Square, the Einstein Bier Haus, commemorated the







triumph with a mural of Mo Salah, Virgil van Dijk and skipper Jordan Henderson lifting the Champions League trophy in Madrid.

Later that year John's latest creation appeared at the back of The Park pub on Walton Breck Road, right opposite the ground: Bill Shankly holding a red scarf aloft emblazoned with the pub's name, helping to celebrate the 60th year since the great Scot's appointment at Anfield.

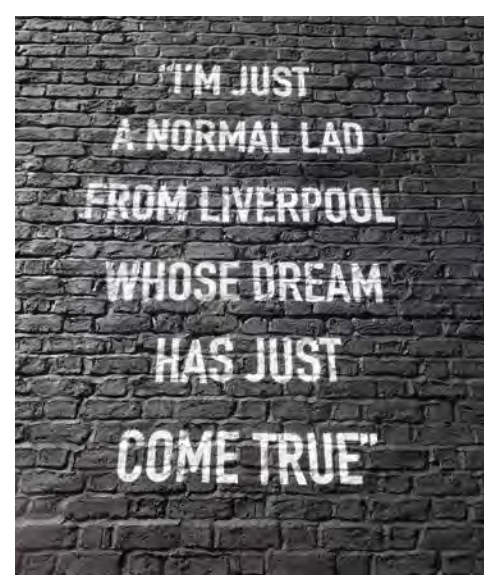
But it was the Trent Alexander-Arnold mural on Sybil Road, just off Anfield Road, that really caught the eye, unveiled the day before the 2019/20 season's opening Premier League match against Norwich City and visited by the man himself.

On the night that he'd helped his boyhood heroes to clinch the Champions League, Trent was asked what it meant to join the greats who'd won the trophy before him. "It's hard to think of myself as a legend," he said. "I'm just a normal lad from Liverpool, whose dream has just come true."

That quote formed the basis of the artwork, created by Akse in association with The Anfield Wrap podcast team. It also highlighted the work of Fans Supporting Foodbanks, an








ALEXANDER-ARNOLD
66
"I'M JUST
A NORMAL LAD
FROM LIVERPOOL
WHOSE DREAM
HAS JUST
COME TRUE"
FOR FANS
SUPPORTING
FOODBANKS
FW12 BNK





organisation of whom Trent is a great supporter and whose co-founder Ian Byrne said: "As someone who lives in the next street, it's brought something unique to Anfield. Well done to all involved as we are very proud of this 'boss' piece of art and of Trent, a great role-model to the kids in our community."

The 20-year-old full-back added: "It's not just the picture – it's important that it has that message there. It shows the fans that it's only a few metres down the road, so it will just raise a bit more awareness for it and they can give back whenever they can.

"The main message that kids should be picking up from me and my story is that anything is possible, anything can happen. I was once that kid in a Gerrard or Carragher shirt. They were the players that made me feel as though anything could happen."

A spokesman for The Anfield Wrap said: "We're really proud of the mural. We've worked so hard on it and we hope people enjoy celebrating the local lad living all of our dreams with us."

Of course Sybil Road now features a treble of murals. Opposite Trent is Reds skipper Jordan Henderson holding aloft the Premier League trophy, created by MurWalls and commissioned by Redmen TV to celebrate the 2020 title win.

Next to it is a mural in honour of 1965 FA Cup final goalscorers Ian St John and Roger Hunt, again by MurWalls.

The Saint signed it in November 2020. The passing of both of these much-loved legends in recent times has made the mural even more evocative.



"GIVE MY ABSOLUTE EVERYTHING TO HELP THE TEAM BE SUCCESSFUL – THAT'S ALL I HAVE EVER TRIED TO DO"

The captain has set some superb new personal milestones this season but he says all that matters is the group



It has been a season of milestones for Liverpool's leading man, but the facts and figures most concern Jordan Henderson involve adding to the club's roll of honour.

Having celebrated a decade at the club in June, the 31-year-old captained Liverpool for the 200th time when he wore the armband against Crystal Palace in September.

When he skippered the side against Atletico Madrid in Spain last month he took that tally to 205. Only a handful of men have now captained the Reds on more occasions.

The 5-1 win in Porto September had also seen him clock up 400 appearances for the club in all competitions – only 26 others have made more for Liverpool.

The game at West Ham in early November was set to see him play his 300th Premier League game for the Reds, a feat achieved by only three others: Jamie Carragher, Steven Gerrard and Sami Hyypia.

Despite such significant achievements, Henderson, typically, says the time to reflect upon them will be for another day.

"Those stats are huge honours," he says. "I never take playing for this football club for granted, so to do so 400 times is pretty special.

"It may be something that when I finish my career – hopefully in a long time – I look back at and take in a little bit more, but at the moment I just want to look forward. I don't really tend to look back too often, if at all.

"I just want to look forward in terms of what I want to achieve with this football club and with these players and try to give absolutely everything to do that.

"I don't want to waste time thinking about what I have done or what we've achieved as a team, but rather to think about the future and what we can do going forward. I'll have plenty of time to look back when I finish."

In terms of what the Reds can achieve this season, the captain believes the team has put down solid foundations during the opening months. They went into last month's game at Manchester United on the longest run without a league defeat in English football's top four divisions, their 19 games taking in 14 wins and five draws.

"I think the group looks strong," affirms Henderson. "We've started the season really well and we've got great depth within the squad.

"The team has been rotated at times but has always looked strong and the performance level has remained good. That is important as we are going to need everyone throughout the season with the number of games that we've got.

"Of course there are areas that we can improve but that's always going to be the case. But I think we've got to be pleased with the start to the season and hopefully we can just go from strength to strength over the next few weeks because there is still a long way to go."



Words: William Hughes

When you have a taste of success it makes you even more hungry to have it again. We can use the experience that we had last year to try and make us better and that is what we're trying to do now – I hope and believe we've learnt a lot from last year

Although there were a number of mitigating circumstances for the Reds' drop-off in form and results last season – not least an injury-list that would have tested any club in the world – Jordan admits that the squad have a renewed determination to challenge for honours again this term.

"The drive is there every single year to be successful and to win trophies. That's always the aim at this football club and the players have certainly got that mentality.

"Even last season, yes, it was a difficult season but you could never question the drive or the attitude. The players always gave everything for the team and the club.

"Of course we had injuries and it was a difficult season without fans and other things, but I don't want to use them as excuses because it was the same for other teams too. I think you've got to learn from those experiences that sometimes happen in football for one reason or another. It's about learning from them.

"When you have a taste of success it makes you even more hungry to have it again. We can use the experience that we had last year to try and make us better and that is what we're trying to do now.

"Of course it's always difficult in the Premier League but if you're mentally strong and apply yourself right in all those difficult games then, with the players that we have, we've got a chance.

"I hope and believe we've learnt a lot from last year and we can kick on again and hopefully be successful in the near future."

Henderson's adaptability has been important to the Reds and he has occupied various roles within Jürgen Klopp's three-man midfield, either as a no6 as in the outstanding 5-0 win at Watford last month or in a more advanced role enjoying the protection offered by Fabinho being deployed in that deeper position.

"We've got quite a few different types of players so depending on the opponent and on the amount of games we have coming up and things like that, we have a lot of options and it's important that we use those at the right time," he explains.

"I think if you look at your typical holding midfielder, you look at Fabinho as probably being one of the best in the world at what he does.

"I love playing with Fab. He's such a fantastic player, he reads the game so well and he's good on the ball so to play with him is amazing really, especially when I'm playing in the eight and I've got him behind me to protect and stop counter-attacks and so on.

"It gives me a little bit more license to get forward which I've been enjoying.

"Then the other profiles within the midfield can vary. There could be more of a box-to-box player or more of a no10 playmaker within the team and we've got so many different options within that area.

"For instance in Curtis and Harvey you have something different and then there's Thiago, Ox, Naby, Milly...so we certainly have plenty of quality in there for the manager to select from."

Now into his eleventh season at Liverpool, Henderson has grown into an inspirational captain leading by example on and off the pitch. He believes that ability to adapt has been an important factor in his decade at Anfield to date.



"To be honest I think when I first came to Liverpool I never really thought about how long I would be at the club," he admits. "I just knew that I was coming to a huge football club and I wanted to give absolutely everything to be successful here and that's all I've continued to do.

"No-one ever knows how long something is going to last and, of course, one day it will come to a stop.

"Hopefully that won't be for a very long time yet but you just never know in football as it changes so quickly.

"So, for me, I just enjoy playing for this club every single day in training and in every game and try to give my absolute everything to be better and to try to help the team to be successful. That's all I have ever tried to do.

"In terms of adapting my game, I think I've learnt and improved over the number of years that I have been here, especially under Jürgen.

"At the beginning of his time here I was probably playing as more of a six and a deeper midfielder which I'd never really done before. I feel as though since I started playing there a few years ago, it was difficult at the beginning but I learnt and learnt, improved and improved and I think I can play that position well now.

"But I can still play my more natural position as well which is as an eight getting up and down box-to-box and a bit more all-action which I enjoy.

"I would say that I have adapted and I have learnt different ways in which I can play but that's part-and-parcel of being a footballer – you're always learning, you always want to improve and be able to adapt in different positions and wherever the team really needs you.

"There were times last season when I had to play centre-half which I didn't particularly enjoy but sometimes you've just got to do it for the team and I'll always do that. Being able to adapt is essential in modern-day football, but at the same time there are still attributes there that I have had my whole career as a player."



MOST GAMES AS LFC CAPTAIN

1 Steven Gerrard 472
2 Ron Yeats 416
3 Emlyn Hughes 335
4 Donald Mackinlay 293
5 Alex Raisbeck 267
6 Jordan Henderson 207*
after Brighton home 30 Oct 2021

LFC'S 400 CLUB

1 Ian Callaghan 857
2 Jamie Carragher 737
3 Steven Gerrard 710
4= Ray Clemence 665
4= Emlyn Hughes 665
6 Ian Rush 660
7 Phil Neal 650
8 Tommy Smith 638
9 Brice Grobbelaar 628
10 Alan Hansen 620
11 Chris Lawler 549
12 Billy Liddell 534
13 Kenny Dalglish 515
14 Ronnie Whelan 493
15 Roger Hunt 492
16 Phil Thompson 477
17 Steve Heighway 475
18= Elisha Scott 468
18= Steve Nicol 468
20 Sami Hyypia 464
21 Ron Yeats 454
22 Donald Mackinlay 434
23 Ian St John 425
24 Peter Thompson 416
25 Arthur Goddard 414
26 John Barnes 407
27 Jordan Henderson 405*
after Brighton home 30 Oct 2021



Henderson feels in good shape. He had missed the final three months of the 2020/21 campaign after undergoing surgery to correct an adductor injury.

"I feel really good. Of course it was disappointing to miss the end of last season and I did well to get back for the Euros but I still wasn't 100 per cent.

"Then I trained on my own before joining in with the team during pre-season so I'd had quite a long time of building back up so it's nice to be back playing games again and physically I'm feeling good."

While many of the Reds' rivals splashed the cash in the summer transfer-window, Liverpool remained relatively quiet with centre-back Ibrahima Konate the only major addition to the squad. That prompted plenty of discussion on social media but Henderson says that it was never a distraction within the camp.

"A lot of people will look at the transfer window and get carried away and get excited and of course that's a big part of the excitement before the season starts. But as players you tend not to look too much into it, really.

"I know how good the squad is here and the quality of the players and their mentality. So for us it's always about what we need to do to achieve our goals and if we work hard to aspire to do that then we'll be in with a chance."

The home draws with Chelsea and Manchester City have suggested that the Reds will be in the mix as far as the Premier League is concerned and Henderson says it has been wonderful to play in front of full houses at Anfield again.

"It's incredible. Of course it's amazing having the fans back at Anfield, but everywhere really. It's been really good at the away-games too with the atmospheres and, of course, in general it has been much, much better.

"It's a totally different game without fans as we saw over the past year to 18 months so it's amazing to have them back in the stadiums and it makes such a big difference in the way that football's played.

"It adds more in terms of the emotional side when you can hear the crowd reacting to certain things. Of course that will apply more pressure at times to players too but that's all part-and-parcel of football.

"That's what we grew up with, so to not have that was a different experience and it wasn't the same.

"As I say, there were different things that affected us last year such as injuries and so on but not having the fans made a huge difference, especially at Anfield.

"I speak to a lot of opposing players who hate to come here as it's such a tough place to come to. But for us it's our home and we love playing here, so it's really special to have them back."

The Reds' travelling fans have enjoyed themselves too and Henderson admits the 5-0 win at Manchester United last month – Liverpool's biggest-ever win at Old Trafford – was a special day.

"I've been there many times and it's a difficult place to go to so it was special. I thought it was a fantastic performance from start to finish.

"We enjoyed it that night as it doesn't happen very often but then the next day we were focused on the next one.

"Games like that obviously give you confidence but it was only three points, which is what we went there for. Now we've got more tough games coming up and you've got to be ready for different challenges all the time.

"We can still always improve,we can always be better and that's what we need to keep striving for from now until the end of the season."

Henderson played his part in that win at Old Trafford and his brilliant pass with the outside of the right foot played in Salah for the goal which saw the Egyptian become the first visiting player to score a Premier League hat-trick on the ground.

"The hardest part of football is finishing which he's not bad at, to be fair to him! It was a fantastic run and the run makes the pass. Then he got in there and he was clinical again.

"It was another fantastic day for him and for all of the lads really. I thought everybody's performance was top-level that day."

The early signs are that the usual suspects will be fighting it out for the Premier League title again come May but Jordan says others could come into the picture too and that as far as the Reds are concerned, it's just a case of taking things one game at a time.

"To be honest, no-one would have looked at Brighton and said they would be where they were after eight games [fourth] and you just never know in the Premier League," he points out.

"I think we've seen that over the years and when you look back to when Leicester won it [in 2015/16], no-one would have said that they would have won the Premier League at the start of that season, so it can be unpredictable and as players you don't really get caught up with who's considered favourites and who's not.

"It's about us as a team at Liverpool to make sure that we're doing absolutely everything we can to be successful, not only in the Premier League but in every competition we're in.

"Of course the Premier League is a big part of our season and we're striving here to give everything every single day so that we'll be able to say at the end of the season that we're champions.

"Everything else is put to the side."

COOKING UP A TREAT

It's the food-for-football book they're all talking about – and author and club nutritionist Mona Nemmer has been signing copies for fans











Photos: Nick Taylor



The most recent international break gave Mona Nemmer a very rare Saturday afternoon 'off' from work. Liverpool FC's head of nutrition was still at Anfield but this time to sign copies of her new book at the stadium superstore.

A Taste of the Liverpool Way shows young footballers and supporters of all ages how fresh, local seasonal food can help them to be healthy and strong like their heroes, explaining the basics of nutrition in a fun, easy-to-understand way. With a foreword by Jürgen Klopp and a host of easy and cost-effective recipes loved by the players, the book is a unique insight into one of the key factors behind LFC's exciting new era.

Reds fans turned out in force to get their copies signed by Mona at the superstore and a couple of weeks later she was an 'Anfield Review' guest columnist in the official matchday programme for the Champions League group game against Atletico Madrid.

She wrote about being "unbelievably excited and proud to finally present our lovely book – it's been a wonderful journey over the last 12 months and a dream-come-true.

"Working closely with so many friendly, talented, passionate people is an absolute privilege. This book – I really hope – is a little way of giving something back to a special club and a special city.

"We wanted to create something different for our supporters – not another recipe book and not a book that was too scientific and complicated. Instead we wanted something unique and inspiring which fans will enjoy and learn from. I hope they like it!"





It was fitting that the book-signing took place at Anfield where sustainability – one of the key themes running through Mona's book – is at the forefront of the stadium's management just as it is at the AXA Training Centre in Kirkby.

Mona and her team recognise that a sustainable diet is closely-linked to community wellbeing and public health, and their work reflects changing attitudes and habits not just among players, staff and supporters at LFC but in the wider world. It can be simple daily things like shopping locally, using water sensibly, reducing food waste and switching to multi-usable storage containers.

Mona's dream is "to help the next generation of fans and footballers learn more about where good food comes from, why a healthy, well-balanced diet improves our wellbeing and sporting performance, and how it can be simple, easy and affordable to grow our own produce and even cook our own meals."

A Taste of the Liverpool Way is published by Reach Sport and is available to purchase from the official LFC online store and in-store at all official LFC stores in the UK & Ireland.

Look out too for a new series in the matchday programme showcasing some of Mona's winning recipes!











CUP KIDS

Several youngsters have made their senior debuts in this season's Carabao Cup and manager Jürgen Klopp and assistant Pep Lijnders continue to be impressed by the Academy's talent

Words: William Hughes

This month's international break will afford an opportunity for many of the Reds' promising youngsters to train with senior stars who are not representing their countries.

It also offers a handy platform for Jürgen Klopp and his staff to gauge the progress of the young talents being nurtured by the club's Academy.

You never know, some of them may force their way into the reckoning for next month's Carabao Cup quarter-final against Leicester City at Anfield.

Liverpool's first involvement in the competition this season saw a trio of teenagers handed their senior debuts.

Winger Kaide Gordon, 17, and full-back Conor Bradley, 18, started the 3-0 win over Norwich City at Carrow Road while midfielder Tyler Morton, who turned 19 at the end of October, came on for Naby Keita at half-time.

Speaking ahead of the fourth-round tie at Preston North End, assistant-manager Pep Lijnders told the media: "I said before the Norwich game: the young players will never let you down, never.

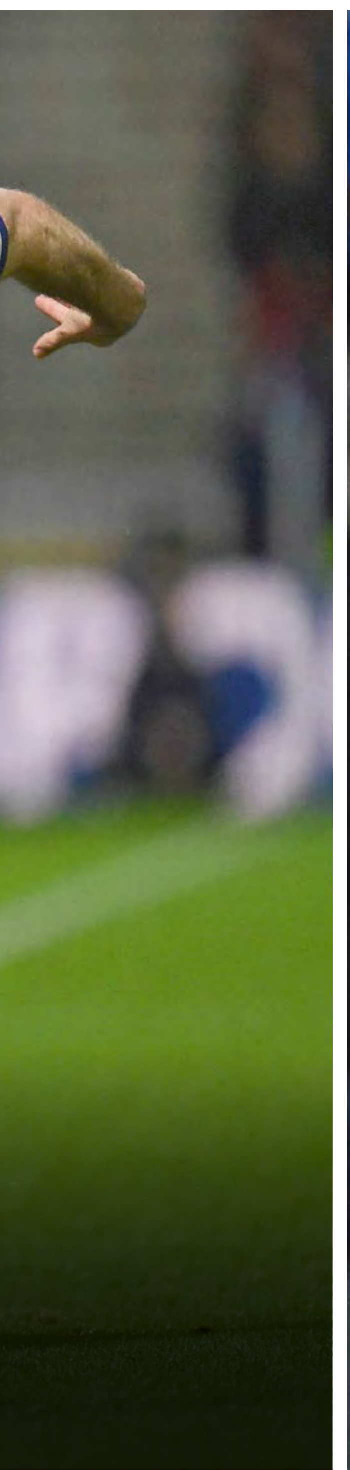
"And did Conor Bradley let us down? Did Kaide Gordon let us down? Did Tyler Morton let us down?

"How did Tyler, second half, improve our positional game? By speeding up with each simple, quick pass. How was he constantly available to outplay the first pressure of Norwich?

"How was he organising the midfield tactically when the others were putting pressure on and counter-pressing?

"Conor went 95 minutes as the full-back who was constantly jumping to the deep wing-back of them.

"These boys have heart, that's the most important thing I think. As long as they have heart, play with our values and they are humble, then they always get a chance.



"I think that's an important part of our success over the last years, otherwise we would not speak about Curtis [Jones], about Harvey [Elliott], about Trent [Alexander-Arnold], about all these others who made steps in their careers, about Rhys [Williams], about Nat [Phillips].

"For example, look at last year: sometimes you're searching for gold and you realise that you are sitting on it. Last year we were searching for centre-halves, we played Fabi, we played Hendo, and in the end the gold was just next to us with Nathaniel and Rhys.

"That's why we came third in the league and that's the same with young players and it's the same with our process – sometimes you are sitting on it."

Another trio enjoyed first-team outings at Deepdale last month.

Winger Harvey Blair, 18, started the game while defender Owen Beck, 19, who had played at Anfield in the pre-season friendlies against Athletic Bilbao and Osasuna, also made his debut as a late substitute. Midfielder Elijah-Dixon Bonner, 20, was introduced too for a first appearance in the senior side since a stoppage-time cameo in the FA Cup win over Shrewsbury Town in Feburary 2020. Morton meanwhile, was handed his first start.

Speaking after the 2-0 victory in Lancashire, Klopp said: "Tyler is obviously a real talent, a real smart footballer. You can see this. His





natural movements, natural positions, are really good, so he is a real football-smart boy and the technique is really good.

"Now we have to make sure we help him with getting a body for football – he is not too small and not too skinny, but there is still a little bit to come and we have to make him ready for all that.

"It was a very positive impact again tonight."

Morton, who is captaining the Under-19s in this season's UEFA Youth League, hails from Wallasey. He joined the Reds at the age of seven having impressed scouts while playing for the Greenleas junior teams.

"It was very emotional," he recalled after the game. "My whole family were there and people who have supported Liverpool for years like my mates, they were there watching me and it gets emotional.

"Clapping the fans at the end, it's just a boyhood dream and one I've dreamed of since I was born really because I've been coming to the games since I was three or four.

"I can't really express the feeling."

In addition to this season's debutants, midfielder James Balagizi, 18, was an unused substitute in the victory at Norwich while goalkeepers Liam Hughes, 20, and Marcelo Pitaluga, 18 made the bench at Preston.

Lijnders explained that the players have all impressed when he, Klopp and the other senior coaching staff had the chance to run a closer eye over them during this season's international breaks.

"Our Academy is constantly producing new players and every international break we use the time to see them, to train them, so we have a good view on what we have and there are even new players coming who really make an impact in these sessions.

"There's always one or two surprises in these international breaks and if that keeps going, if we can still produce our own quality with the values of Liverpool, then we are always one step ahead of whatever may come.

"That's what I like about us, that we give these young players opportunities."

After the game at Deepdale, Klopp added: "Elijah [Dixon-Bonner], for example, did exactly that.

"In the last international break he was incredible. He's been long in the club already but was not really on the radar – and now all of a sudden he is there. He deserved these three or four minutes tonight.

"For a young boy, it's a massive thing to play your first game for the first team and I'm really happy for him that we could give him the opportunity.

"So, there's always a spot for these young boys. Owen Beck obviously impressed a lot in the pre-season, like Conor [Bradley] did. It's good to have them.

"The problem is in the international break some of them are as well on tour with the national teams, so then they cannot train with us. But the others can and that's good."

Morton meanwhile believes training with the senior stars only helps provide him and his Academy team-mates with a wonderful opportunity to make an impact.

"It's all about making impressions on the manager," he says. "The manager gives us opportunities [and] he is one of the best managers in the world, especially for giving opportunities.

"He's given that to the likes of me, Neco [Williams], Owen [Beck], Harvey Blair, Conor [Bradley], Elijah [Dixon-Bonner], Kaide [Gordon], and that's what we need. We're going to do our best to impress."

And as to the prospect of running out at Anfield in the quarter-final just before Christmas, he says: "I just take every game in my stride really, whatever game it is, and see how it goes.

"If I am in his plans or if I'm not, I am always going to be happy to be part of the club and that's what I'm like."



Interview: William Hughes



OUR CERI FROM CYMRU

Midfielder **Ceri Holland** is enjoying her football in the red of Liverpool FC Women and Wales – and here she explains why

An important part of Liverpool FC Women's strong start to the season has been the energetic displays of their central midfield axis.

Since switching to a system of three-at-the-back and using Taylor Hinds and Charlotte Wardlaw as wing-backs, manager Matt Beard has favoured the youthful pair of Ceri Holland and Missy Bo Kearns as his preferred duo in the centre of the field.

It has been a plan that has reaped rewards with the Reds going into last month's international break on the back of a six-game unbeaten streak.

Local lass Kearns was voted player of the month by supporters but she would be the first to acknowledge the role played by her midfield partner Holland, whose all-action displays have helped give the Reds a solid platform from which to defend and attack.

"I'm enjoying playing in the middle with Bo," says the 23-year-old. "I think we've got a good partnership from last year that we just built upon this season and we're starting to understand more and more each game what we need and what Matt wants from us.

"It's obviously difficult when teams overload you in there with three against two but I think it's just something that we have to adapt to. I haven't felt uncomfortable at all in the games and of course that gives us space in other areas, so I think Bo and I have a good understanding and so far it's going well.



"I think we've got to know each other really well on and off the pitch too and I think that helps the partnership.

"We've also got Furney [Rachel Furness], Carla [Humphrey] and Jade [Bailey] in midfield and I think each of us can all bring something different. We've all got good partnerships with each other and I think that's really important."

After a disrupted pre-season with different players isolating with COVID at various times, Beard always believed it would take until the end of September before his side started to gel.

"I think we've started to click now and I think we're all getting more comfortable with the way Matt wants us to play," Ceri explains.

"With every game I think we're improving and that's been seen with the performances and the results. Obviously we went into the last international break unbeaten in six which was really positive. It was disappointing to lose the opening game and it was not the way we wanted to start the season but I think we're just taking that as a learning experience.

"We learnt loads from that game and, as I say, I think we've been improving with every game since."

As a teenager Ceri, who was born and bred in Yorkshire, was also a talented cricketer. She represented the county but at the age of 15 had to make a choice between sports and opted for football.

She was part of the youth set-up at Manchester City before going to study exercise science at the University of Kansas.

She represented the university's football team, the Kansas Jayhawks, and says the experience helped her take giant strides as a footballer ahead of her return to England and joining the Reds back in January.

"I think college really set me up to be as successful as I could when I came back. I don't think you can really describe the college experience. It is like being a full-time athlete in one respect and there's a massive emphasis on the way that they develop you as an athlete out there and I think that really set me up for when I returned to this country.

"I've come back more athletic, quicker and powerful than I was before I left and that's really helped me. Especially last season I think it was noticeable. When I came back to play in England again I had a lot of people basically saying to me 'What did they do to you out there?!'

"It's a different style of play in America but it's only going to help you learn more and more about your game and about yourself and also about the game generally.

"I don't think playing different styles of football is going to hinder you in any way. Obviously the football is a lot more technical and tactical here but that's just developing another side of my game and that's something I've really enjoyed, especially since Matt's come in.

"He challenges you tactically a lot more than I have ever been in



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I'VE COME BACK FROM AMERICA MORE ATHLETIC, QUICKER AND POWERFUL THAN I WAS BEFORE I LEFT AND THAT'S REALLY HELPED ME. ESPECIALLY LAST SEASON I THINK THAT IT WAS NOTICEABLE







the past and he's been amazing in terms of helping me with that. I feel like I'm learning so much every day, not only from the staff but from the players around me too.

"I think that's why we've got a good chance of being successful this year because we've got such a good squad. We've also got such a good family feel and Matt's brought that with him."

Another positive in Ceri's career path has been her learning experiences as part of the full Welsh squad.

She qualifies through her Welsh-born mother and was called up for the senior squad for the first time last season.

In September she scored her first international goal in a World Cup qualifying win against Kazakhstan at Parc y Scarlets in Llanelli.

"Scoring that goal was a massive moment for me," she says. "I'm still quite new in the Wales set-up, so it was a huge moment and a really proud moment for me and my family.

"I think the 'Welshies' are all really supportive and they were really happy for me so I was buzzing. It was a header too and I don't score many of them so I was delighted. It was an amazing camp with two wins and we couldn't have asked for a better start to our qualifying campaign.

"My Mum is fully Welsh. She was born-and-bred in mid-Wales and she's Welsh-speaking too so she's as Welsh as you get really! Obviously I was born in Yorkshire but I'm really proud to put on the Welsh shirt."

Ceri has been accompanied in the Wales squad by a couple of her Liverpool team-mates in defender Rhiannon 'Razza' Roberts and forward Georgia Walters and she says that has helped the settling in process.

"It has been good to go away with Razza and Georgia. Razza looked after me, she's like a big sister to me. She puts her arm round me and she's really brought me into things. She has really looked out for me in my first few camps and I really thank her for that. She's proper looked after me!"

Ceri's call-up to the Welsh squad coincided with the Dragons appointing a new manager in Gemma Grainger whom she says has been a joy to work with.

"I've absolutely loved it. I think if you speak to anyone in the Welsh team they've only got praise for her. She came in at a similar time to me so that was what I came into and have been getting used to but the girls speak really, really highly of her and love what she's brought in.

"I love how much she's bought into the Welsh traditions. She's learnt the anthem and I think that means a lot to the girls. She's really embraced a lot of the Welsh traditions that are really important to us and the anthem is one of those things.

"She's such a personable coach too and she's got to know every single person off the pitch as well and I think that gets the best out of players. As I say, I've absolutely loved playing under her and I hope I get to play many more times under her."

Last month's international break saw Wales draw in Slovenia before beating Estonia 4-0 in front of a record crowd of 5,455. They sit second in their group behind France who they visit at the end of this month.

"Obviously having France in the group is a tough one but they're all tough games in international football. I don't think you can forget that.

"Estonia away was a really difficult one for us too. They put 10 players behind the ball and made it very frustrating and difficult for us on the night but we came away with the 1-0 win.



"We're playing well and we want to keep pushing France as far as we can. I think we're going to go into the next camp full of confidence."

Wales missed out to Northern Ireland on goal-difference in their bid to secure a play-off place for next summer's Euros, an opportunity Northern Ireland took with Reds midfielder Rachel Furness playing her part in firing her squad to their first major tournament finals.

Ceri says the disappointment of just missing out is providing added motivation for Wales as they bid to reach the 2023 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

"I followed Wales' progress before I came into the set-up and yes, I think there's a lot of hurt from that experience in the Euros but that's also a spring and a motivation for us to qualify for a World Cup," she says.

MATT CREATES A VERY SPECIAL ENVIRONMENT THAT EVERYONE WANTS TO BE IN, HOPEFULLY WE'LL PUSH FOR PROMOTION



"We've got a lot of players who have gone through a lot of campaigns and we've just missed out many times so I think if we can do it for them it would be amazing.

"Jess Fishlock recently won her 125th cap and has represented Wales since she was very young and there's many players like her who have been around the set-up for a long time and you want to do it for them just as much as you want to do it for yourself and Wales.

"I think we have the set-up now to qualify for a major tournament. The set-up at camp is amazing – we go to the Vale where the men are and it's all parallel with the men so I think they've given us the best facilities and the best opportunity to be as successful as we can.

"I hope this is going to be a really successful time for the Welsh team."

Of course Ceri hopes to play her part in enjoying plenty of success in the red jersey of Liverpool too.

"Matt creates a very special environment and it's an environment that everyone wants to be in. If you look at the players that he's brought in, he's worked with a lot of them before and that says a lot if players want to come back and play for a manager again. I don't think you can say anything higher than that really.

"The players that he's brought in have been amazing in terms of the people they are as well. They're all good people and that's only going to set us up to be more successful this year so hopefully we can push for promotion and be back where we belong in the Women's Super League next year."


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"SALAH'S SCORED TEN IN A ROW!"

Words: Chris McLoughlin

On the afternoon that Anfield marked the loss of one great goalscorer, it was somewhat fitting that another of Liverpool's greatest goalscorers netted one of his best goals in a red shirt.

Before kick-off against Manchester City, the life of Roger Hunt, who signed for Bill Shankly's Heaven XI at the age of 83, was marked with a 'SIR ROGER 8' mosaic on the Kop and a minute of applause as *You'll Never Walk Alone* rang out.

The matchday programme also featured the Liverpool legend on the front cover, although they wisely opted not to dedicate a page to each of his 285 goals for LFC to avoid the programme being thicker than the Yellow Pages.

At the rate Mo Salah is scoring at, a publication dedicating a page to each of his Liverpool goals could spark a climate-change emergency through mass deforestation, although the energy the Anfield crowd gives off when Salah scores could probably light the COP26 convention in Glasgow.

City boss Pep Guardiola said his players "would prefer to play with fans at Anfield than without," in his pre-match press conference because "everything is more alive, it's more difficult.

Had the Manchester City boss been asked again in the 77th minute, when he was booked by referee Paul Tierney for remonstrating about James Milner not receiving a second yellow card moments before a Salah wondergoal put Liverpool 2-1 up, he may well have wished football was still being played behind-closed-doors. Alas it wasn't quite 'the Reds are taking over, Guardiola, Guardiola' outcome we'd hoped for.

City were the better team in the first half, but a couple of Alisson saves from Phil Foden kept the scores level. "The first half was obviously exactly like you shouldn't do it against City," said Jürgen Klopp afterwards. "We didn't play football."

His side turned up for the second 45 and after Salah left the already booked Joao Cancelo feeling like Wile E Coyote when the Road Runner zipped past him he sent Sadio Mane clean through to fire home without breaking stride.

Foden killed the mood somewhat with an equaliser ten minutes later, but then Salah scored a mesmerising second. He shrugged off a challenge from Cancelo, flicked the ball from one foot to the other to skip between Foden and Bernando Silva and tricked Aymeric Laporte by faking to shoot on his left before turning the ball onto his right.

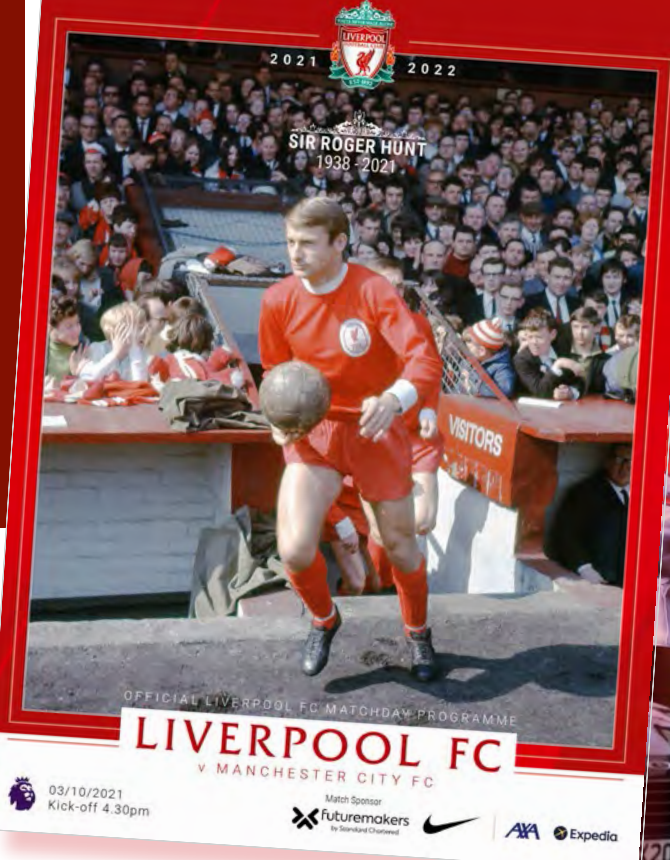
As the Anfield crowd gasped, and Craig Revel Horwood sat at home holding up a number 10, darling, Salah fired a shot across Ederson to make it 2-1. It was Salah at his breathtakingly talented best and Anfield erupted in joy.

Annoyingly, Kevin de Bruyne's deflected shot gave City a 2-2 draw although Fabinho could and maybe should have won it at the end.

Ederson missed Salah's cross and the ball whispered sweet nothings about an open-goal into Fabinho's ears only for Rodri to appear from nowhere to block.

So the Redmen headed off for international duty second in the Premier League and Klopp celebrated his sixth anniversary as Liverpool boss by seeing Kaide Gordon sign his first professional contract with the club.

If the left-footed 17-year-old needed a reminder of the level the first-team player in his position is at then on the very same day Salah was announced as a Ballon d'Or







nominee, the bookies making him third favourite to win it behind Robert Lewandowski and Lionel Messi.

Decent company to keep, and hopefully beat, and in the meantime Salah was named as both the PFA Fans and Standard Chartered player of the month for September.

"I'm happy as long as the team keeps winning," he said before ordering a 100ft long mantlepiece to keep all his awards on.

Roger Hunt's funeral took place on 14 October and hundreds of Reds gathered outside Anfield to applaud the funeral cortege as it drove past with the Kop's 'SIR ROGER' banner held aloft close to the Paisley Gates.

His coffin had a red Liverpool flag draped upon it and his wife Rowan, children David and Julie, stepchildren Katie and Wayne and extended family were joined by around 400 mourners at the Anglican Cathedral including Kevin Keegan, Roy Evans, Ian Rush and David Johnson.

Roger's England World Cup-winning strike-partner Sir Geoff Hurst also sent a message that read: "What a player he was. Up there with Kenny Dalglish, Ian Rush, Kevin Keegan and Mo Salah."

RIP Sir Roger.

As usual, there was bad news from the international break. Diogo Jota and Curtis Jones picked up injuries and with Brazil playing Uruguay about 25 minutes before the Reds were due to face Watford at Vicarage Road it meant both Alisson and Fabinho were ruled out, the pair flying directly to Spain to spend some time in quarantine (which isn't a district of Madrid) ahead of the midweek Champions League encounter against Atletico.

So Caoimhin Kelleher came in for his first Premier League appearance of the season and with Claudio Ranieri having been recently appointed as the latest Watford manager, the pre-match newspaper previews thought Liverpool might get stung by Hornets star Ismaila Sarr a la the 3-0 reverse in 2019/20.









Wrong. They cruised to a 5-0 win with Firmino hitting his first hat-trick since December 2018.

Mane got the party started with his 100th Premier League goal, again scoring with a first-time finish from a Salah pass, before Milner crossed for Firmino to shin the ball into an empty net.

Firmino tapped home his second, after Watford keeper Ben Foster could only push the ball to him when preventing Craig Cathcart from putting through his own goal, and completed his treble late on when the fit-again Neco Williams served up a tap-in on a plate.

On any other day the Brazilian would have earned all the headlines, but they belonged to Salah after he scored another truly unbelievable individual goal.

There were so many Watford players in front of him when Firmino and Naby Keita won the ball back that it looked like Insulate Britain had glued themselves to Vicarage Road instead of the M25, but somehow Salah danced between three of them, and put Cathcart on his backside, before turning back onto his left foot and netting.

"Have you ever scored a better goal than that?" a BT Sport reporter asked Salah. "Last game maybe," he replied with a smile.

Watford keeper Foster later revealed on his YouTube channel that Salah had asked him at full-time which way he'd have dived if he'd taken a penalty against him.

"I thought: 'Oh, you clever, clever boy' because we do our research. So I've looked at him and I've gone, 'Ah okay. I'd have gone to my right. I'd have dived to my right because you put your last five penalties to the right'.

"He went: 'Yeah, thank you. I need to know, I need to know'. So not content with just winning the game five-nil and scoring an unbelievable goal and being man of the match, he has to know the tiny little details. In his next game, if he gets that penalty, which way he should put it. That's why Mo Salah is at the top, guys. He is the top."

Liverpool's next stop was the Wanda Metropolitano – Saturday night and I like the way you move, Divock Origi – for matchday three in the UEFA Champions League against Atletico Madrid.

Unbeaten at home in Europe for four years, only one home defeat in their last 40 games, champions of Spain, top of La Liga and with enough attacking options to leave Luis Suarez on the bench, there are few harder games than playing Diego Simeone's side away.

And that's without factoring in the hostile, often referee-influencing atmosphere the Atleti supporters generate. Time to bring out the secret weapon then.

Back in 1983 – when Meta wasn't a new name for Facebook but a way of describing a first date in Liverpool ("I meta down the Pier Head, lad") – Joe Fagan's team faced Spanish champions Athletic Bilbao. They also play in red-and-white stripes, it was also in the European Cup and their San Mames stadium is also atmospheric and intimidating.

After drawing 0-0 at Anfield, the Basques fancied their chances of going through, but Liverpool – looking magnificent in their classic all-yellow and red pinstripe away kit – won 1-0 thanks to an Ian Rush header. They went on to become champions of Europe.

Maybe the kit designers at Nike had nights like that, and an even more impressive 4-1 win against Benfica in Estadio da Luz in the 1984 quarter-final, in mind when conjuring up





Liverpool's third kit this season. It certainly looked the part in Madrid.

In three previous away trips to Atletico Madrid – the first two at the Vicente Calderon – Liverpool had failed to win, drawing 1-1 in green in 2008 and twice losing 1-0 dressed in black in 2010 and 2020.

Turn up there in an all-yellow kit, with red chequered trim on the collar and cuffs, though and it is a whole different ball game. Simeone's men didn't know what'd hit 'em.

Liverpool were 2-0 up in 13 minutes. Salah got the first with a low shot, although James Milner could've claimed it after he dangled out a leg to deflect it past Jan Oblak, and Keita proved his volley against Crystal Palace last month wasn't a fluke by lashing in another dipping effort from the edge of the box.

Atleti suddenly sprang into life and got a goal back in the 20th minute when Thomas Lemar crossed for Koke, and from his low shot Antoine Griezmann turned the ball in from close range.

Joel Matip was prevented from attempting to make a goal-line clearance by the offside Lemar, but VAR turned away like that giant doll in Squid Game and the goal stood.

Alisson then had a personal battle with the Atletico Madrid forward line, saving from Griezmann, Lemar and Joao Felix, but the sides went in level after Griezmann found the net again. Unfortunately for the home side, he also found Firmino's head with a high boot in the 52nd minute and was sent off.

Simeone, who uses more hand gestures during 90 minutes than you'll find on an emoji keyboard, wasn't best pleased and nor were the Atletico crowd when Mario Hermoso inexplicably barged Diogo Jota over in the penalty area.

The Atleti players protested for so long that they probably could've got a letter of complaint delivered to UEFA HQ in Nyon before Salah stepped up and coolly converted the penalty at the same end of the Wanda Metropolitano where he netted from the spot in 2019.

It was also a club-record 31st Champions League goal for Liverpool for Salah, beating Steven Gerrard's tally of 30.

The home side were awarded a soft penalty moments later after Jose Maria Giminez went down under a slight nudge from Jota, but VAR sent ref Daniel Siebert to the pitchside monitor and he overturned his decision amid howls of derision from the home crowd.

Liverpool held on to win 3-2 and can now add Atletico Madrid to Real Madrid and Barcelona on the list of Spanish teams they've beaten away from home.

It was an impressive result, but could Liverpool top it a few days later in the Premier League at Old Trafford? You all know what happened next, but it'd be rude not to mention it, right?

Klopp's decision to bring in Jota for Mane, Ibou Konate for Matip and the loss of Fabinho to injury had some pundits fancying a Manchester United victory following their Champions League comeback win against Atalanta.

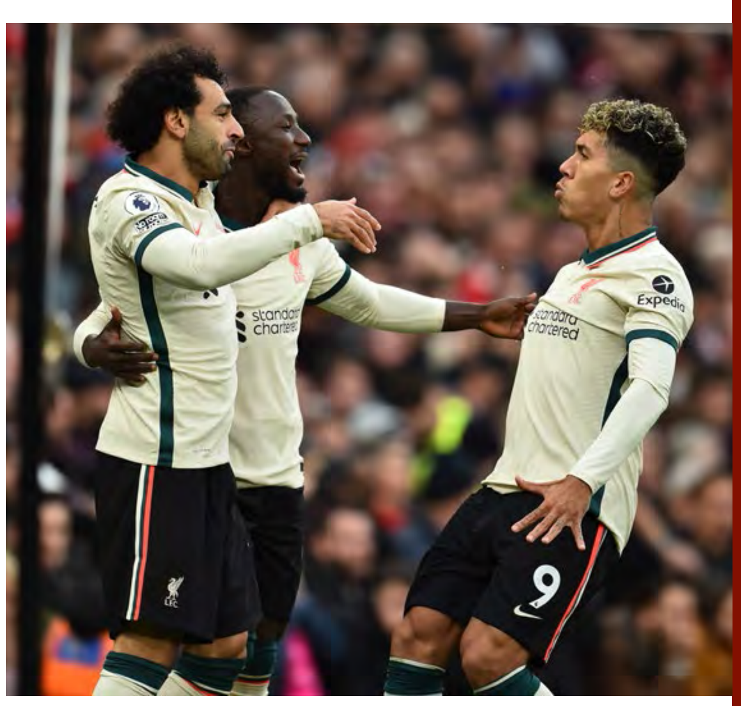
To save any embarrassment, we won't mention any names as we'd Neville, er, never do that.

Among the 3,000-strong travelling Kop in the corner of the East Stand was Klopp's wife Ulla and a current Wigan Athletic player – Jamie Carragher's son James. They were in what many die-hard, long-standing Reds regard as the best Liverpool away end of the entire Premier League era.

Which it should have been when the final scoreline read: Manchester United 0 Liverpool 5.

It was such a hammering that the hosts even turned the scoreboard off after the game as the travelling Kop enjoyed the post-match lock-in with a relentless sing-song. They had witnessed Liverpool's biggest ever win at Old Trafford and certainly made the most of it with the celebrations continuing long into the night.





Keita slotted home the first from Salah's pass, after the Reds ruthlessly exposed United's disjointed pressing game, and Jota slid in the second from Trent Alexander-Arnold's cross.

When Salah made it 3-0 in the 38th minute, darting in at the near-post to convert Keita's cross after Firmino linked the play superbly well, thousands of home fans headed for the exits and the Liverpool contingent had a new song.

"And I like it, I like it, I like it, I like it, I li-li-like it, li-li-li, here we go, oh, Salah scored ten in a row!"

It was also the third consecutive visit to Old Trafford in which Mo had scored, again breaking new ground for a Liverpool player.

In the stands, the cameras zoomed in on Sir Alex Ferguson puffing out his cheeks before immediately switching to Sir Kenny Dalglish, who was laughing his head off. Their contrasting expressions were on t-shirts and mugs in a matter of days.

United's frustration began to boil over. Luke Shaw was booked for fouling Salah and Cristiano Ronaldo was lucky not to be sent off for a wild swing at Jones before booting the ball while it was trapped underneath him as he lay on the ground, prompting players from both sides to rush in for a bit of a shemozzle.

During stoppage-time for that incident, with Keita off the pitch after Fred earned himself a booking for fouling him, Salah swept home Liverpool's fourth with a first-time finish from Jota's pass.

The cacophony of boos that rang out around three quarters of Old Trafford when the half-time whistle blew was music to Liverpudlian ears and when Salah completed his hat-trick from Jordan Henderson's stunning pass to become the first visiting player to ever net a Premier League hat-trick away at Man United, it felt like the Reds could score ten.

Instead, after Paul Pogba was sent off following a VAR review on a challenge that left Keita exiting on a stretcher,







they opted to manage the game to avoid any further injuries.

Alexander-Arnold would've made it six but for a fine save by David de Gea and the travelling Kop greeted VAR ruling out a Ronaldo goal with a cheer that sounded more like a laugh.

There was even time for Andy Robertson to deflect a certain Edinson Cavani goal onto the crossbar to ensure a clean sheet.

What a day, what a performance, what a result, what a team. And even though the month ended a week later with a hugely disappointing 2-2 draw at home to Brighton – the Seagulls wiping out Henderson and Mane's first-half goals with a stunner from Enoch Mwepu and a Leandro Trossard strike – that 5-0 win at United will be talked about for decades like the 5-0 win at Everton in 1982.

Rush scored one, Rush scored two, Rush scored three and Rush scored four...but he never scored a goal like Divock Origi did against Preston North End at Deepdale in Liverpool's 2-0 Carabao Cup fourth-round win.

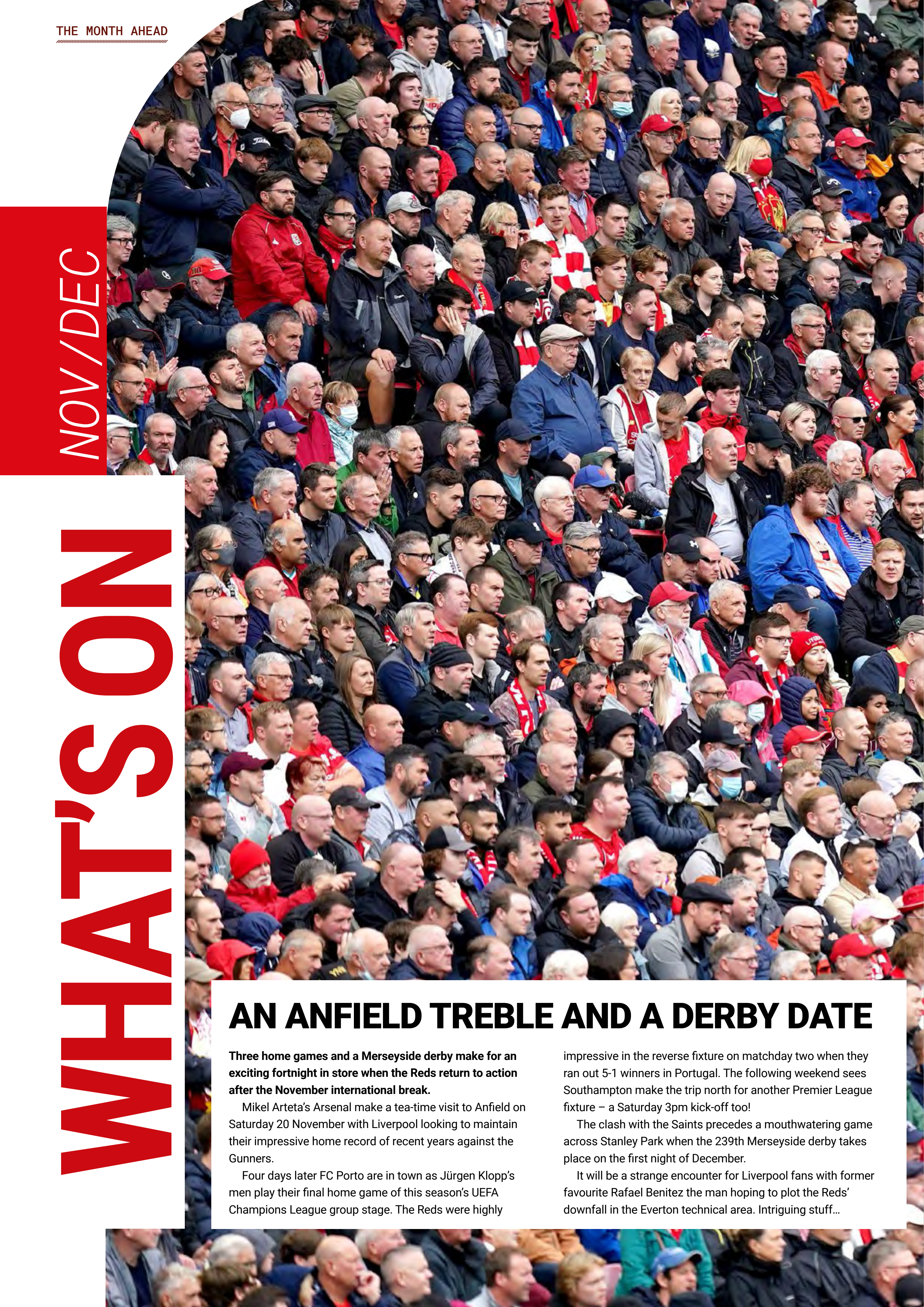
The Reds, with Harvey Blair making his debut and Tyler Morton his first start, needed a save from Adrian and goal-line block by Neco Williams to go into half-time level.

But after the break, Williams crossed for Takumi Minamino to score yet another League Cup goal away from home and when the Welsh full-back's shot was blocked, after a Kostas Tsimikas cross hit the crossbar, Origi flicked his right leg up behind his head, as if he was casually having a yoga session, and scorpion-kicked the ball over PNE keeper Declan Rudd with his studs to make it 2-0.

It was the kind of audacious, outrageous, instinctive, ridiculous goal only a true cult-hero would score, adding to the legend of the man. It set up an Anfield quarter-final clash against Brendan Rodgers' Leicester City and with a Merseyside derby to come on 1 December, you suspect Origi was just getting limbered up for the game he excels in the most.

But first comes November...





NOV/DEC

WHAT'S ON

AN ANFIELD TREBLE AND A DERBY DATE

Three home games and a Merseyside derby make for an exciting fortnight in store when the Reds return to action after the November international break.

Mikel Arteta's Arsenal make a tea-time visit to Anfield on Saturday 20 November with Liverpool looking to maintain their impressive home record of recent years against the Gunners.

Four days later FC Porto are in town as Jürgen Klopp's men play their final home game of this season's UEFA Champions League group stage. The Reds were highly impressive in the reverse fixture on matchday two when they ran out 5-1 winners in Portugal. The following weekend sees Southampton make the trip north for another Premier League fixture – a Saturday 3pm kick-off too!

The clash with the Saints precedes a mouthwatering game across Stanley Park when the 239th Merseyside derby takes place on the first night of December.

It will be a strange encounter for Liverpool fans with former favourite Rafael Benitez the man hoping to plot the Reds' downfall in the Everton technical area. Intriguing stuff…



NOV/DEC

WHAT'S ON

HIGH NOON AT DURHAM

Liverpool FC Women's visit to Durham Women on Sunday 14 November already looks like being an important one in this season's FA Women's Championship.

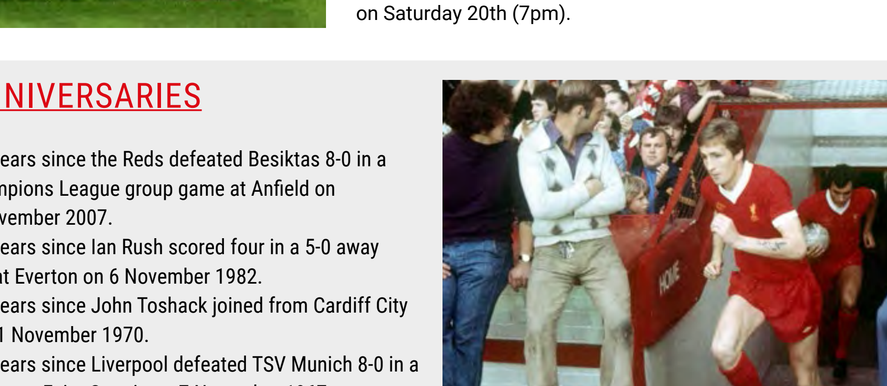
With only the top team being promoted after 22 league games, the sides ended October as the league's top two and meet for the first time this season at Maiden Castle as part of the annual Women's Football Weekend (noon).

Before that, Matt Beard's side also have two home dates with Blackburn Rovers, meeting them in the league on Sunday 7 (2pm) and Continental Cup on Wednesday 17 (7pm) with the club offering a buy-one-get-one-free on tickets for the Rovers games via the official website.

The Reds conclude a busy run of games with another trip to the North East to take on Sunderland in a Championship fixture on Saturday 20th (7pm).

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO...

ANNIVERSARIES



14 years since the Reds defeated Besiktas 8-0 in a Champions League group game at Anfield on 6 November 2007.

39 years since Ian Rush scored four in a 5-0 away win at Everton on 6 November 1982.

51 years since John Toshack joined from Cardiff City on 11 November 1970.

54 years since Liverpool defeated TSV Munich 8-0 in a European Fairs Cup tie on 7 November 1967.

69 years since Ronnie Moran made his Liverpool debut on 22 November 1952.

6 years since the Reds won 4-1 at Manchester City to claim their first away win under manager Jürgen Klopp on 21 November 2015.

And it's 45 years since left-back and cult hero Joey Jones scored his first Liverpool goal on 9 November 1976…

Joey Jones became a hugely popular figure during a three-year stint at Anfield.

Liverpool manager Bob Paisley recruited the Welshman – whose mother hailed from Dingle – in the summer of 1975 with the Reds agreeing to pay Wrexham a fee of £110,000.

When the North Wales club's board agreed to the deal, their manager John Neal threatened to resign.

Then 20, Jones admitted to being 'a bit raw' when he arrived and he appeared just 13 times in his first season playing top-flight football.

The left-back role was also covered by Phil Neal and Alec Lindsay in 1975/76 but a year later Jones established himself in the first team and only missed three of the 42 League fixtures. His first goal for the Reds cemented his place in the fans' affections and what a goal it was. With just under 20 minutes remaining of a home game against Leicester City, he let fly from 25-yards and saw his effort fly beyond Foxes keeper Mark Wallington at the Kop end. His strike put Liverpool 4-1 up and they went on to win 5-1.

It was one of three league goals Jones scored in that title-winning season but he became better known for his exploits on the road to success in that season's European Cup. He was immortalised on a banner that read 'Joey ate the frogs' legs, made the Swiss roll, now he's munching Gladbach'.

"To be honest, I couldn't believe it when Liverpool came in for me in 1975," he admitted. "I had three great years and while I was never one of the household names, I always had a good rapport with the fans.

"I think they knew that deep down, I was just one of them."



BIRTHDAYS

John Barnes 58 on 7 November
Adam Lewis 22 on 8 November
Patrik Berger 48 on 10 November
Jade Bailey 26 on 11 November
Ron Yeats 84 on 12 November
Billy Koumetio 19 on 14 November
Bobby Graham 77 on 22 November
Caoimhin Kelleher 23 on 23 November
Jim Furnell 84 on 23 November
Steve Heighway 74 on 25 November
Xabi Alonso 40 on 25 November
Phil Babb 51 on 30 November


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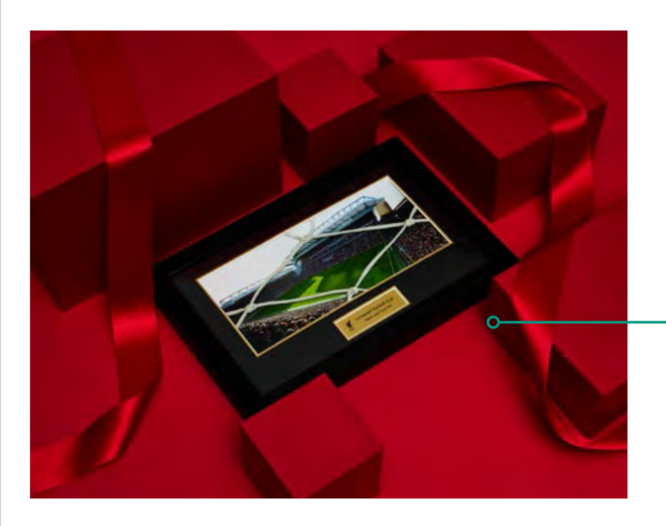
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FIXTURES 2021/22

		SCORE	TV	SCORERS
AUGUST				
Sat 14	Norwich City (A, 5.30pm)	3-0	Sky	Jota, Firmino, Salah
Sat 21	**Burnley (H, 12.30pm)**	**2-0**	**BT**	**Jota, Mane**
Sat 28	**Chelsea (H, 5.30pm)**	**1-1**	**Sky**	**Salah (pen)**
SEPTEMBER				
Sun 12	Leeds United (A, 4.30pm)	3-0	Sky	Salah, Fabinho, Mane
Wed 15	**AC Milan (H, UCL Matchday One, 8pm)**	**3-2**	**BT**	**Tomori (og), Salah, Henderson**
Sat 18	**Crystal Palace (H, 3pm)**	**3-0**		**Mane, Salah, Keita**
Tue 21	Norwich City (A, Carabao Cup 3, 7.45pm)	3-0	Sky	Minamino 2, Origi
Sat 25	Brentford (A, 5.30pm)	3-3	Sky	Jota, Salah, Jones
Tue 28	Porto (A, UCL Matchday Two, 8pm)	5-1	BT	Salah 2, Mane, Firmino 2
OCTOBER				
Sun 3	**Manchester City (H, 4.30pm)**	**2-2**	**Sky**	**Mane, Salah**
Sat 16	Watford (A, 12.30pm)	5-0	BT	Firmino 3, Mane, Salah
Tue 19	Atletico Madrid (A, UCL Matchday Three, 8pm)	3-2	BT	Salah 2, Keita
Sun 24	Manchester United (A, 4.30pm)	5-0	Sky	Keita, Jota, Salah 3
Wed 27	Preston North End (A, Carabao Cup 4, 7.45pm)	2-0	Sky	Minamino, Origi
Sat 30	**Brighton & Hove Albion (H, 3pm)**	**2-2**		**Henderson, Mane**
NOVEMBER				
Wed 3	**Atletico Madrid (H, UCL Matchday Four, 8pm)**		**BT**	
Sun 7	West Ham United (A, 4.30pm)		Sky	
Sat 20	**Arsenal (H, 5.30pm)**		**Sky**	
Wed 24	**Porto (H, UCL Matchday Five, 8pm)**		**BT**	
Sat 27	**Southampton (H, 3pm)**			
DECEMBER				
Wed 1	Everton (A, 8.15pm)		AP	
Sat 4	Wolverhampton Wanderers (A, 3pm)			
Tue 7	AC Milan (A, UCL Matchday Six, 8pm)		BT	
Sat 11	**Aston Villa (H, 3pm)**			
Thu 16	**Newcastle United (H, 8pm)**		**BT**	
Sun 19	Tottenham Hotspur (A, 4.30pm)		Sky	
Wed 22	**Leicester City (H, Carabao Cup 5, 7.45pm)**			
Sun 26	**Leeds United (H, 12.30pm)**		**BT**	
Tue 28	Leicester City (A, 8pm)		AP	
JANUARY				
Sun 2	Chelsea (A, 4.30pm)		Sky	
Wed 5	Carabao Cup S-F 1			
Sat 8	Emirates FA Cup 3			
Wed 12	Carabao Cup S-F 2			
Sat 15	**Brentford (H)**			
Sat 22	Crystal Palace (A)			
FEBRUARY				
Sat 5	Emirates FA Cup 4			
Wed 9	**Leicester City (H)**			
Sat 12	Burnley (A)			
Tue 15/Wed 16	UCL Ro16 1			
Sat 19	**Norwich City (H)**			
Tue 22/Wed 23	UCL Ro16 1			
Sat 26	Arsenal (A)			
Sun 27	Carabao Cup Final			
MARCH				
Wed 2	Emirates FA Cup 5			
Sat 5	**West Ham United (H)**			
Tue 8/Wed 9	UCL Ro16 2			
Sat 12	Brighton & Hove Albion (A)			
Tue 15/Wed 16	UCL Ro16 2			
Sat 19	**Manchester United (H)**			
Sat 19	Emirates FA Cup 6			
APRIL				
Sat 2	**Watford (H)**			
Tue 5/Wed 6	UCL Q-F 1			
Sat 9	Manchester City (A)			
Tue 12/Wed 13	UCL Q-F 2			
Sat 16	Aston Villa (A)			
Sat 16	Emirates FA Cup S-F			
Sat 23	**Everton (H)**			
Tue 26/Wed 27	UCL S-F 1			
Sat 30	Newcastle United (A)			
MAY				
Tue 3/Wed 4	UCL S-F 2			
Sat 7	**Tottenham Hotspur (H)**			
Sat 14	Emirates FA Cup Final			
Sun 15	Southampton (A)			
Sun 22	**Wolverhampton Wanderers (H)**			
Sat 28	UCL Final			

All fixtures are subject to change.

standard chartered

L.F.C.



NEIL MELLOR

Mo Salah breaks club records seemingly every week, enjoys playing for a manager who gets the best out of him and is at a club where he can win major honours

When Mo Salah arrived at Liverpool and scored 44 goals during his first season a lot of people thought: wow, where has that come from? Now, in his fifth year as a Liverpool player, he looks like he is getting even better.

There is a hunger, desire and maybe even an anger about Salah this season because he has missed out on the Premier League Golden Boot late on during the last two campaigns. He wants to win that, to show he is the best in the Premier League, but he also wants to win the Ballon d'Or to show he is the best player in the world.

It is Salah's mentality, his consistency and the fact he produces both individually and for the team that sets him apart as one of the world's best. Very few players are able to sustain such a high level, but Salah comes into that bracket and the discussion has moved to asking if Salah is the heir to Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo as the best footballer on the planet.

Kylian Mbappe has long been tipped as their successor, but at this moment in time I believe it is Robert Lewandowski with Salah not far behind. But if Mo keeps scoring at his current rate, and maybe wins another Premier League and Champions League, the conversation changes again.

There are not many players who make me think: I cannot wait to watch you today. Luis Suarez was the last Liverpool player I genuinely thought that about, but when Salah's name is on the team sheet I'm thinking: I cannot wait to watch this lad.

He scored in ten games in a row in all competitions. He got a hat-trick in a 5-0 win at Old Trafford. And he has scored two unbelievable goal-of-the-season contenders against Manchester City and Watford.

How many other players can score goals like that? Messi is capable, but did he ever score a goal like that against Real Madrid? Salah did it against Pep Guardiola's Man City – the champions – so while his goal at Watford was great, the one he scored against City was better because he beat more players and scored it in a much bigger game.

The best players are judged on how they perform in those games and with Salah in this form it is Liverpool who are benefiting from it. So are his team-mates because at the time of writing Salah has 49 assists for Liverpool, a contribution that is somewhat underappreciated.

All strikers have to be selfish and ruthless, but Salah also gets his fair share of assists and it was from his movement, pace and passing that Sadio Mane opened the scoring against Manchester City and Watford.

However, the concern Liverpool supporters have about how the team will cope without the pair in January when they're playing in the Africa Cup of Nations is a valid one.

In my view, if Liverpool want to win the Premier League they have to get cover for them. There's no other way around it.

Last season we witnessed the impact of having defenders injured and we saw recently against Brighton how injuries to midfielders can impact performances and results. It will be the same in January without Salah and Mane unless reinforcements are brought in.

Depending on how far their nations go in the tournament, they will miss two or three league games – but the six or nine points that could be won or lost at that time can be decisive in the title race. So I believe Liverpool must bring in a couple of forwards with pace – players who understand they are cover for Salah and Mane but aspire to play for Liverpool.

Our recruitment has been outstanding in recent times and I trust and hope we do get cover in early with pace because of such a huge miss Mane and Salah will be for us in the final third.



I also hope that Salah's reported contract issue is resolved soon because if he stays at Liverpool for the rest of his playing career he can put himself alongside Sir Kenny Dalglish and Steven Gerrard in the list of true LFC greats.

Salah got to 100 league goals quicker than Roger Hunt, breaks club records seemingly every week, enjoys playing for a manager who gets the best out of him and is at a club where he can win major honours.

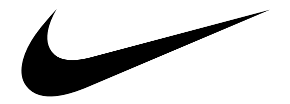
Liverpool used to lose their best players, but now the club is in a position to keep one of the best in the world in Mo Salah.

The sooner a new contract is done-and-dusted the better because we want to be enjoying his remarkable goalscoring exploits at Anfield for years to come.

• Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33










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